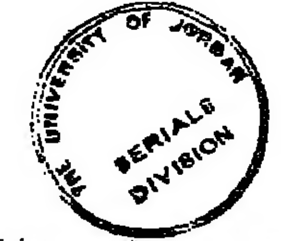
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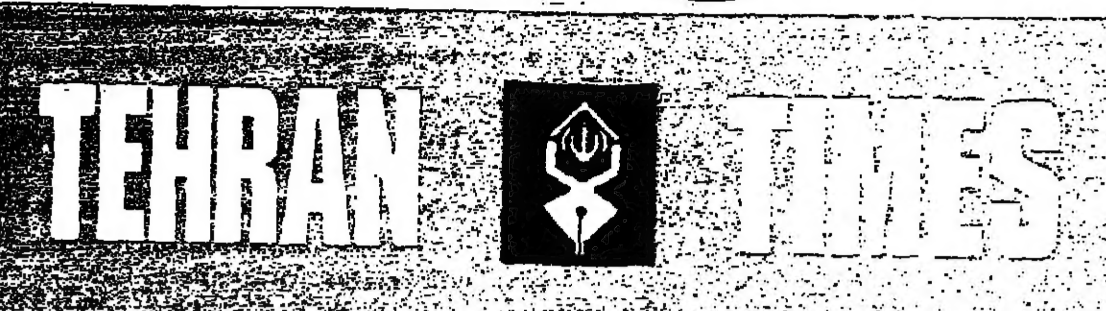


Taskhiri, Nicholson Confer on Various Issues

Tehran Times Service

LONDON—Head of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, here Thursday conferred with British MP and spokesman for Britain's Liberal and Democrat Party, Emma Nicholson, a report faxed yesterday said.

The two sides exchanged views on inter-religious dialogues, measures for cultural expansion, treatment of Iraqi refugees and women's rights including their role in society. (Contd on Pg. 14)



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Turkish Kurds Kill 15

ANKARA — Kurdish separatist rebels firing automatic weapons and rockets killed 15 people Friday in an attack on a mini-bus in southeast Turkey, the Anatolia news agency said.

It said the attack, which also left 10 wounded, occurred near the town of Cukurca.

Nine of the fatalities were pro-government Kurdish militia fighters, Anatolia said.

Fighters of the Kurdistan Workers' Party opened fire on the vehicle as it traveled between two towns near the Iraqi border, the agency said without giving further details. (AFP)

De Chartte: Iran an Important and Key Country in Region



CHARTTE

Compiled From Dispatches

PARIS — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi delivered a message form Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to French Foreign Minister Harve de Chartte in a meeting here on Thursday.

Velayati in his message, referring to his talks with De Charette in Damascus and New York over the past few months, has underlined the necessity of expansion of Tehran-Paris cooperation.

Charette thanked for Velayati's message and called for promotion of economic ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Charette continued that Iran should assume a role and responsibility in the world scene, because it was a "very important and key country in the region."

"Like Iran, France follows up latest developments in Afghanistan and appreciates Iranian efforts to resolve crises in the region," he said.

The French foreign minister expressed hope that his Iranian counterpart would soon be able to visit France.

Vaezi said in response that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed that France could play a moderating role in the region and that cooperation and mutual understanding were the prerequisites to peace and end of crises in the region.

Iran wants to buy 10 Airbus airliners, and French communications satellites costing more than $500 million, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi said here on Friday.

Iran was also interested in buying French beef, he said, and quoted the French foreign minister as saying that France would ignore the U.S. d'Amato act to prevent companies from investing in the Iranian hydrocarbons industry.

He also revealed that the quasi French State Export-Credit Guarantee Department, COFACE, had resumed coverage for exports to Iran from September.

"We plan to buy satellites costing more than $500 million, and we are ready to buy 10 Airbus airliners," he said at the end of a two-day official visit here.

France and Iran were negotiating "big economic projects" which raised the (Contd on Pg.14)

Bahrain to Boycott PGCC Meeting

DUBAI — Bahrain plans to boycott a meeting of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) ministers opening in Doha on Saturday because of its territorial dispute with Qatar, the *Al Hayat* newspaper reported Friday.

The London-based Arabic newspaper, citing Bahraini sources, said the Persian Gulf state will boycott the Doha meeting "for the same reasons that it announced it would boycott the PGCC summit (in December) and any other meeting in Doha."

Bahrain on November 3 refused to attend a preparatory meeting in Qatar for this week's PGCC meeting.

Delegates from the other PGCC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates attended the meeting in the Qatari capital but Bahrain's seat was empty.

Bahrain and Qatar are embroiled in a dispute over the Hawar islands in the Persian Gulf.

Qatar unilaterally sought the arbitration of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The (Contd on Pg.14)

UN Chief Hails Iran's Peace Making Activities

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Seyed Kamal Kharrazi met the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros- Ghali here on Tuesday night.

The two officials discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and the possible ways of ending the civil war and bloodshed in that country.

They also exchanged views on the recent peace agreement brokered by the Islamic Republic of Iran between Sudan and Uganda.

Ghali briefed Kharrazi on the UN efforts to hold an international conference on Afghanistan and said that the organization is trying to finalize the agenda of the meeting to be held in New York on November 18.

He said the meeting will be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council (U.S. Russia, China, France and Britain), the regional states including Iran, Pakistan, and the Central Asian republics, as well as the countries that can contribute to the reconstruction of strife-torn Afghanistan such as Italy, Germany and Japan.



BOUTROS-GHALI

Kharrazi said that the key to get the desired results from efforts to restore peace to Afghanistan, is to encourage not one but all the warring factions to bury the hatchet.

He added that unless all the factions in Afghanistan are ready (Contd on Pg.14)

Arafat Gives Netanyahu List of Demands

GAZA CITY — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has given Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a list of four basic demands which need to be fulfilled to unblock the stalled peace talks.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said he handed Arafat's letter over to Dan Shomron, the head Israeli negotiator, when members of both sides met on Wednesday in a bid to jump start talks on the Al-Khalil redeployment.

"I gave Mr. Shomron a letter from Mr. Arafat for the Israeli prime minister which contained four fundamental demands with regard to the peace process," Erakat told AFP.

He said the letter demanded Netanyahu continue negotiations on Al-Khalil until an accord is reached, start talks on other parts of the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace track, put an immediate stop to Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories and set a date for the start of negotiations aimed at determining the final status of those territories.

"At this point we have not received any reaction from the Israelis about the letter," Erakat added.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have not restarted talks on finding a solution to Israel's (Contd on Pg.14)

Turkish Interior Minister Resigns

ANKARA – Turkey's Interior Minister Mehmet Agar on Friday handed in his resignation, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said.

His departure comes amid a scandal alleging that organized crime rings had infiltrated the state administration.

Erbakan said he had accepted Agar's resignation and had named Meral Aksenem to replace him.

She is a member of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's Truth Path Party, the junior partner in the Islamist-led government coalition. (AFP)

Clinton to Cast "Wide Net" in Shaping New Cabinet

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and is considering candidates for his new Cabinet, who he said could be Republicans, Democrats or independents.

In his first post-election press conference later Friday, Clinton was expected to announce some key Cabinet changes and also call for early talks with Republican congressional leaders on pressing issues such as the budget and campaign finance reform, the *Washington Post* said.

Clinton, who was re-elected Tuesday along with the Republican majority in both houses of Congress, was cobbling together a new Cabinet this week after several of his top aides announced they were quitting — a normal move at the start of a second presidential term.

The first vacancy was announced Thursday by the president himself. Clinton told reporters he had accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Christopher.

Clinton said Christopher would remain in the administration until his successor is chosen. The *Washington Post* said Clinton would like to settle on a replacement before he leaves for Asia at the end of next week.

Christopher, a 71-year-old lawyer, will travel to Cairo next week to attend a Mideast economic conference before heading to France and China later in the month.

He is also scheduled to attend a NATO meeting in Brussels in December before leaving the State Department in January when a new team will take office.

Topping the list of contenders (Contd on Pg.14)

Six Years

Iran Clinches Wrestling World Championship



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran defeated Russian side to clinch the 24th World Free-Style Wrestling Championship here last night.

Earlier yesterday morning, on the second day of the 24th tournament of the World Cup (Contd on Pg.14)

TEHRAN TIMES

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In the Name of Allah

As to these, surely that about which they are shall be brought to naught and that which they do is vain.
(HOLY QORAN)(7:139)

OPINION

No Relations Between Iran, U.S.: Who Is the Loser?

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in a meeting here last week with the visiting South Korean Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Park Jae Yoon said that Iran has become a junction of East-West trade routes.

Before the advent of naval powers in the 16th century, Iran was a junction of the East-West overland trade routes. The fabled Silk Road, which connected the Far East particularly China to the European hinterland, had its main hub of activities in Persia. Now with several infrastructure projects accomplished in Iran, the East-West trade route--with Iran at its pivot--is currently being revived.

What makes Iran a major revitalizer of the East-West trade route is the solid infrastructure it has managed to build in the post-Islamic Revolution era in different fields of communications, transport, energy and scores of other scientific, technological and industrial areas.

Indeed, but for the deep support of the dedicated Iranian people for the ideals of the Islamic Revolution, the enemies of Islam and Iranian nation, especially the U.S., would have succeeded in checking Iran's considerable progress and development. However, due to the devotion of the people and their adherence to the objectives of the revolution, the plots of the global arrogance have been utterly thwarted and the Islamic government has been making great strides, turning the country into a hub of regional and intercontinental cooperation.

Unfortunately, Iran's adversaries including the U.S. have so far been unable to grasp the above reality. Nevertheless, it is high time their leaders gained an insight into the prominent role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region as well as the international scene. Thus, it is hoped that the U.S. President Bill Clinton will refuse to appoint to key positions in his new cabinet politicians like Warren Christopher and others who formerly proved to be totally subservient to the Zionist regime and its aggressive policies. No doubt the presence of biased and self-interested figures like Christopher would practically prevent a true understanding of the present realities in Iran.

It is clear that without having relations with the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made and is quite capable of making further progress in line with its ideals. In fact, breaking off ties with the United States only increased self-confidence of the Iranian people. Thus, it has been and will remain to be the U.S. that suffers most due to the severance of relations with Iran. Therefore, Bill Clinton should reconsider his foreign policy before forming his new cabinet.

Judiciary Official Rejects Allegations of Global Arrogance

TEHRAN — Prosecutor General Ayatollah Morteza Moqtadaei in his pre-sermon lecture to the Friday prayer gathering at Tehran University dismissed the allegations of global arrogance, led by the U.S., that Iran was not observing human rights.

He rejected the charge as "baseless and unjust," and noted that those who accuse Iran of violating human rights do not have inhibitions in supporting countries which openly trample all human rights.

Moqtadaei said that the allegations of global arrogance against the Islamic system in Iran have all backfired resulting in the strengthening of the Islamic Republic.

He also brushed aside accusations by certain countries of lack of rights of women in Iran, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a matter of fact, is a champion of the real rights of women and supports them in the best possible manner.

Women in Iran are active in the political, scientific, academic, administrative and social scenes, the prosecutor general added.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran considered Hijab (the Islamic dress code) as the source of honor, dignity and respect for the women and dealt categorically with those opposing this concept of freedom.

Ayatollah Moqtadaei said that Hijab has facilitated women's active presence in all social scenes with a greater degree of confidence in innate human values. (IRNA)

Kharrazi Rejects UAE Allegations on Iran Marine Areas Act



UNITED NATIONS HQ., New York — Iran's permanent representative to the world body here on Thursday refuted the allegations of the United Arab Emirates, and said that Iran's Marine Areas Act is not an impediment to freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Kamal Kharrazi in his letter to the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali which was circulated as a General Assembly document, clarified Iran's position regarding international navigation.

He said the Islamic Republic has no objections whatsoever to freedom of navigation on condition that this freedom is not detrimental to the peace and security of littoral states and is based on international laws.

The UAE's Permanent Representative to the UN, Mohammad Samhan, had alleged on August 26 that the Marine Areas Act of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which he said was passed three years ago, is in violation of international laws and is an impediment to navigation in the Persian Gulf including traffic in the Strait of Hormuz.

Kharrazi's letter said that Marine Areas Act was not something new and was ratified to strengthen existing laws on Iran's marine areas.

He also dismissed as irrelevant to the topic of Iran's Marine Areas Act, Paragraph 2 of the UAE envoy's letter claiming ownership of Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf.

Kharrazi said Iran for its part reserves the right to object to certain clauses of the laws of the UAE federation regarding fixing of its marine areas, which are in contradiction to international law. (IRNA)

President Felicitates Japan's Premier

TEHRAN — Iran's President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Thursday cabled a message of felicitation to Japan's Prime Minister Iyotaro Hashimoto on the occasion of his taking office for a second term.

President Rafsanjani also expressed hope that during Hashimoto's second term in office relations between Iran and Japan would further broaden. (IRNA)

Kazakh Deputy FM Named as New Ambassador to Tehran

ALMATY — Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev appointed Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Vaccheslav Gizzatov as Kazakhstan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Born in 1942, Gizzatov graduated from Saratov Law College in 1964 and in 1970 graduated from the Higher Diplomatic School, affiliated to the Foreign Ministry of the then Soviet Union.

He has served as deputy foreign minister of Kazakhstan since 1994.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Kasim Zhomarat Tokayev said here on Friday that appointment of his deputy as ambassador to Tehran was indicative of the importance and high level of ties between Iran and Kazakhstan. (IRNA)

Vaezi Holds Talks With High-Ranking French Officials

PARIS — Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmoud Vaezi here met with high-ranking French officials to discuss issues related to bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments.

In a meeting with Director General of the Foreign Ministry of France here Thursday Vaezi reiterated that he was pleased with the broadening of Tehran-Paris relations.

The French official said the relations between Iran and France were on a good path, and expressed hope that exchange of meetings especially between the parliamentary delegations of the two countries would increase in the future.

He said talks between Iran and the European Union had gone very well, and the French government believed that no group should impose its opinions on Iran.

Vaezi said in response that collaboration between Iran and France had helped bring to an end the killing of innocent civilians in Southern Lebanon by the Zionist regime.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry envoy said that cooperation between Iran, France and the Caucasian countries would be very important especially in the economic field, and added that the position of France was close to Iran in relation to the situation in Afghanistan, and in Central Asia.

Vaezi on Thursday met with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette.

He also held a separate meeting with the Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry.

The meetings between Vaezi and the French officials were within the framework of regular meetings in which besides Tehran-Paris ties, relations between Iran and the European Union were discussed.

The Advisor to President Jacques Chirac of France, Jean David, in a meeting with Vaezi, here Wednesday, called on Iran and France to employ all their potentials in order to establish peace and stability in the Middle East region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, like France, believes that Middle East and the Persian Gulf should not come under domination of outside powers.

Voicing his country's opposition to the d'Amato bill, David said that Paris is totally against Washington's unilateral and extra-territorial laws.

Referring to Iran's positive role in settlement of crisis in South Lebanon, he expressed satisfaction over promotion of Tehran-Paris economic ties.

Underlining the need to continue oil cooperation between the two countries, the French official said that common interests of both countries necessitates further expansion of economic cooperation.

Meanwhile, Vaezi praised Paris for its independent stance particularly with regard to the d'Amato bill and expressed hope that Tehran-Paris diplomatic relations will be further upgraded.

Welcoming a future trip by Chirac to Iran, he outlined Iran's stance on the Middle East peace talks.

Both Iran and France share common views, Vaezi stressed expressing satisfaction over the present trend of bilateral relations.

Tehran-Paris close relations will promote peace and security in the whole region, Vaezi said.

Avenues to broaden cultural cooperation was also discussed by the two officials.

In a meeting with the French Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Xavier Emanoellie on Thursday, Vaezi said that relief aid for the refugees in Iran by international agencies was too inadequate to meet the actual needs of the large number of refugees.

The Iranian official said Afghans and Iraqis had opted to seek asylum with Iran due to the crisis in their countries and also due to their assurance of stability in Iran.

The French official said in response that his government had last September offered relief aid for refugees in Iran as a token contribution to the costs of hosting Afghan and Iraqi refugees, and added that the French government would gladly offer more aid for the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Iran in view of the approaching cold season.

Emanoellie said his government appreciated Iran's humanitarian help to refugees. (IRNA)

Iran's Celebrated Medical Professor Awarded by Vice President

TEHRAN — First Vice President of Iran Hassan Habibi on Thursday awarded a superior scholarship medal to Iran's celebrated physician professor Abu-Torab Nafisi, 81. The medal and a plaque of honor dedicated to him was to acknowledge his professional scholarship and his self-committed service to the people.

Nafisi graduated from the Medical School of Tehran University in 1937 and pursued his post-graduate studies in cardiology at Harward University, U.S., 1952-54, and later in 1963 received the Special Public Health Award of the French government.

He is author of 23 books and 84 articles, and has a command of six languages — Persian, Turkish, English, French, German and Russian.

In a ceremony at Iran's Medical Science Academy here Thursday, Deputy President Hassan Habibi said that he was very hopeful about the scientific renaissance by the Iranian scholars and he said the road to that goal was straight.

He said that learning with commitment to humanity would be promotive of peace and stability throughout the world and would check oppression of the people and injustice to them. He said no person having learned science with loyalty to those principles would offer his learning to those who oppressed others or did injustice to them.

In a brief address to scholars participating in the ceremony, Nafisi thanked God for having led him on the way of Islam and for having shown him the right. He said he owed his longevity to the blessings of his students and patients.

Other than the medal and plaque of honor, several other gifts were also handed to the veteran doctor and medical scholar of Iran from and on behalf of President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and also by Health Minister Ali Reza Marandi, Education Minister Mohammad Ali Najafi, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim, Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Reza Hashemi Golpaygani and Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Ali Larijani. (IRNA)

New Iranian Ambassador to UAE Takes Office

ABU DHABI, UAE — New Ambassador of Iran to UAE Hossein Sadeqi arrived here Thursday night. At the airport he was greeted by UAE Foreign Ministry officials and the Iranian diplomatic staff.

At a ceremony upon his arrival at the Iranian Embassy, Sadeqi expressed hope that executives of Iranian agencies in the UAE would do their best to offer a good picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said closer relations between Iran and the regional states would prevent the poisonous interference in the region of the big powers. (IRNA)

Iran's Outgoing Ambassador Meets Thai Premier

TEHRAN — Outgoing Iranian Ambassador to Thailand Gholam Reza Yousefi on Thursday conferred with Thai Prime Minister Banharn Silapa Archa, at the end of his mission.

Pointing to the growing trend of bilateral relations in all fields, the Thai prime minister stressed the possibility of enhancing of cooperation and launching joint ventures by the two countries.

The Iranian ambassador announced Tehran's readiness to upgrade the level of its relations with Bangkok and to enter into joint ventures with that country. (IRNA)



Iran's Non-Oil Exports to Top $5bn This Year

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Volume of non-oil exports by Iran is expected to reach $five billion by the year end (March 20, 1997), said Deputy Minister of Commerce for Exports Affairs and Head of the Export Promotion Center Ali Saeedlou here on Friday.

Saeedlou, in an interview with IRNA, said that export of goods by the year end is expected to earn the country over $3.5 billion while Iran's technical and engineering services would bring $1.5 billion more in foreign exchange.

He said that $600 million worth of contracts had been concluded so far to provide technical and engineering services to foreign countries.

According to Saeedlou, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Shipping Line is expected to earn $900 million through transit of goods and export of other services.

He said that in the first seven months of the current calendar year, the export promotion centre had organized 68 fairs in Iran and abroad, and with five more to go for year's end, it is all set to surpass the figure of 104 fairs held last year.

The center had also arranged 32 classes in Tehran and other cities for traders and related experts and is to launch a data bank through the Internet for free-of-charge use by exporters and importers, he concluded.

IATA Condemns Sanctions on Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Geneva on Wednesday condemned sanctions imposed on Iran on shipment of airplane parts.

IATA Director General Pierre J. Jeanniot in a statement at the body's 52nd annual general assembly which started work in Geneva on Monday deplored the sanctions. The session was attended by representatives of 254 international airline associations, IRNA reported.

Jeanniot called on all governments to refrain from any move which threatens safety of the international flights.

Iran, represented by a delegation led by Managing Director of the Islamic Republic Airlines, Homa, Hassan Shafti, was chosen member of the Cargo Committee and the Council for Development and Training of Manpower.

EU Bids to End Cuba Row With U.S.

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - European Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, was launching a new initiative in New York Thursday to persuade the U.S. to repeal or, at least, amend its controversial extra-territorial sanctions against Cuba.

He was due to tell the European-American Chamber of Commerce that the EU remained firmly opposed to the Helms-Burton act and that U.S. and the EU should begin searching together for common ground to bring Cuba into the international community, IRNA reported.

The British commissioner was also expected to seek support for his approach in talks with U.S. trade officials and business leaders at a conference in Chicago Friday and Saturday.

The initiative is aimed at mending the transatlantic rift, which also includes disputes over similar sanctions against Iran and Libya, and lay the basis of better times with the U.S. following President Clinton's re-election this week.

The *Financial Times* reported Thursday that Sir Leon was arguing that differences over sanctions had driven a wedge between the transatlantic partners and created "misunderstandings", which had prevented them from cooperating productively.

The EU challenge was to one country's presumed right to impose its foreign policy on others by using sanctions threats and was "merely attacking a precedent which the U.S. itself would oppose in many other circumstances", he was due to explain.

His insistence was that Europe's policy of "constructive engagement" was genuinely intended to achieve reforms by encouraging Cuba to behave as a responsible member of the international community.

EU officials were said to be hopeful that the initiative will help to provide Clinton with the political ammunition needed to persuade Congress to change the anti-Cuba act, which he had already partly waived for six months in July.

Nematzadeh Discusses Tehran-Almaty Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Kazakh officials in separate meetings in Almaty Wednesday with the visiting Iranian Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh called for further promotion of Tehran-Almaty relations in various areas.

Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Dousenbai Dyecenov in a meeting with Nematzadeh described bilateral relations as excellent, IRNA reported.

Referring to Iran's great technical and industrial potentials, Dyecenov said that his country considers the Islamic Republic as its best friend.

Meanwhile, Kazakh Agriculture Minister Serik Akhimbekov called for Iran's participation in development of his country's fisheries. The proposal was welcomed by the Iranian minister.

Nematzadeh also voiced Iran's readiness to provide agricultural machinery to Kazakhstan.

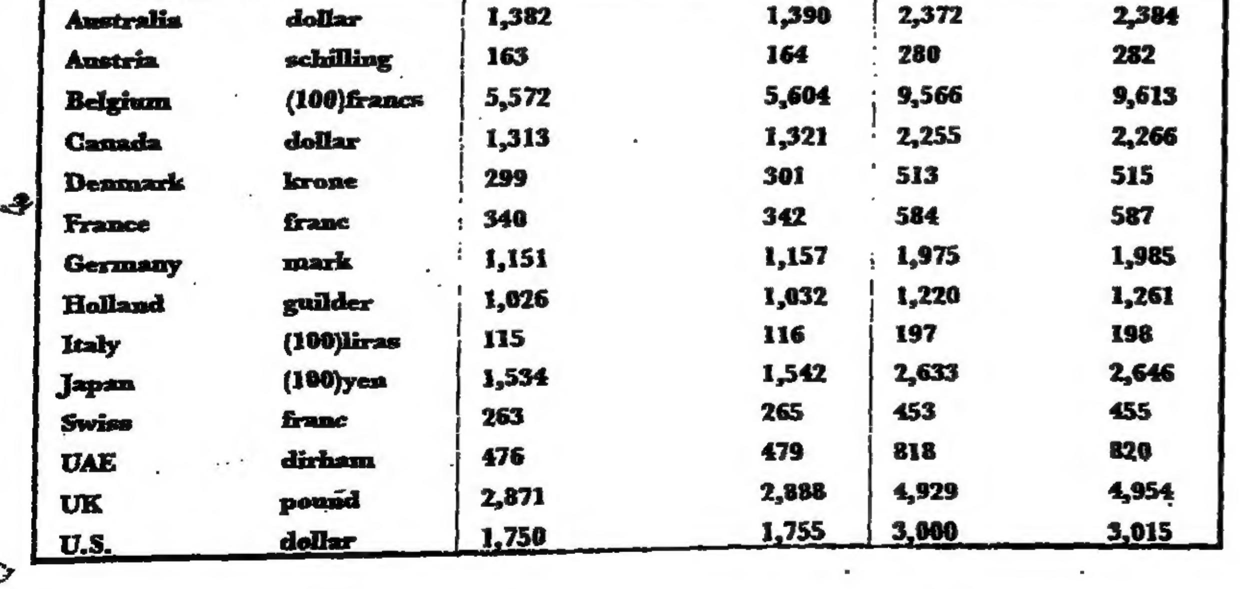
In another development, Tehran-Almaty cooperation in the area of transportation was discussed by Nematzadeh and Kazakh Minister of Transportation, Yuri Lavrinenko.

Transport of goods via the Silk Road railway and the two countries joint shipping line in the Caspian Sea as well as construction of bridges and roads in Kazakhstan by the Islamic Republic were other issues discussed by the two ministers.

Nematzadeh also inspected a number of factories in the Kazakh capital Wednesday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday, November, 71996.



COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,382	1,390	2,372	2,384
Austria	schilling	163	164	280	282
Belgium	(100)francs	5,572	5,604	9,566	9,613
Canada	dollar	1,313	1,321	2,255	2,266
Denmark	krone	299	301	513	515
France	franc	340	342	584	587
Germany	mark	1,151	1,157	1,975	1,985
Holland	guilder	1,026	1,032	1,220	1,261
Italy	(100)liras	115	116	197	198
Japan	(100)yen	1,534	1,542	2,633	2,646
Swiss	franc	263	265	453	455
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,871	2,888	4,929	4,954
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

Iran Offers to Set Up Permanent Exhibition in Dubai

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iranian Minister of Commerce Yahya Al-e Eshaq in his meeting with the mayor of Dubai on Wednesday, said that Iran is ready to set up a permanent trade exhibition in the emirate of Dubai.

If nececessary conditions are met, Iran may turn the proposed trade exhibition into a giant trade center of its kind, he added, IRNA reported.

Al-e Eshaq, noting that Dubai is the biggest market for Persian carpets where the trade in carpets made in Iran runs into millions of dollars annually, said that the two countries can enter cooperation to ease customs and tariff charges in this regard.

Iran is ready to have an active presence in the Dubai carpet exhibition, and hopes to increase the volume of trade exchanges in various other fields, he said.

Libya Seeks Iranian Expertise in Mining, Metal Processing Sectors

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - In a meeting here on Wednesday with Iran's Minister of Mines and Metals Hussein Mahlouji, the Libyan Minister of Utilities and Housing Mubarak Abdullah ash-Shamikh sought Iranian help in mining and metal processing, noting Iran's expertise in this vital field.

Referring to the Iranian contribution to his country for building housing units he emphasized that Libya was keen on Iranian help to develop its mining and metal processing sector, IRNA reported.

Mahlouji said that Islamic Iran has the technology to design, build, and exploit big industrial plants and is ready to offer its expertise to other countries particularly the Islamic states at rate far lower than other world countries.

He pointed out that Iranian engineers are making use of the other world countries mineral resources to build a giant aluminium complex at the port-city of Bandar Abbas with an initial production capacity of 110.000-ton per annum, which will be increased to 330.000 tons annually in the near future.

Iran has set the target to produce 500.000 tons of copper and 12 million tons of steel in the next few years, from the current figures of 6 million tons of steel, 120.000 tons of copper and 110.000 of aluminium.

Habibi to Represent Iran in Rome Summit

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Iranian First Vice-President Hassan Habibi is to participate in the World Food Summit organizaed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which will be held in Rome November 13-17.

A high-ranking Iranian political and economic delegation will accompany Habibi in his trip, IRNA reported.

Some 100 world leaders as well as a number of senior officials from 134 countries will take part in the summit which is to renew a pledge to ensure access to food for all throughout the globe.

India Seeks Australia's Support for Membership of APEC

Tehran Times Service

NEW DELHI — India has sought Australia's support in its bid for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) membership, saying that an APEC without India is inconcievable, reported IRNA.

Addressing the Indian-Australia Joint Business Committee (JBC), which is currently holding its meeting under the ongoing 'India-Australia New Horizons' initiative, in New Delhi today, Union Finance Minister of India P. Chidamabaram said that economic reforms in his country had strengthened India's case for the membership to the APEC.

Responding to India's appeal, the visiting deputy premier of Australia, Tim Fischer, said that India had a "strong and compelling case," adding that the issue of supporting India's bid was, however, still under the consideration of the Australian government.

British Industry Hosts Seminar on Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) is hosting a seminar in London later this month to update UK businessmen on the current economic situation in Iran.

Around 100 UK firms are expected to attend the conference, the first of its kind since 1990. The conference is seen flying in the face of the so-called U.S. attempts to isolate Iran and against Washington's last round of extra-territorial sanctions, IRNA reported from London.

Among Iranian speakers due to address the seminar on November 19 are Deputy Oil Minister Nejad Husseinian, Deputy Minister of Industry Abol-Hassan Khamoushi, Deputy Commerce Minister Mohammad Nahavandian, Deputy Central Bank Governor Ahmad Azizi and Chairman of the Free Trade Zone Supreme Council Morteza Alviri.

Iran's Charge d'Affaires in London, Gholamreza Ansari, along with his British counterpart in Tehran, Jeffrey James, are also scheduled to give keynote addresses, together with the Director-General of Britain's Trade Promotion Services, Ray Mingay.

Vahe Petrossian of the *Middle East Economic Digest* and Colin Ford from Mitsui Babcock Energy will also give perspectives to the conference, which is being chaired by president of the Middle East Association, former UK ambassador, James Craig.

The seminar follows Britain sending more than 70 firms to last month's annual Tehran International Fair, the highest number since 1991 as international confidence is seen returning to the Iranian market.

In 1995, UK visible exports to Iran reached Pnds332 million ($500 m), a 15 percent rise on the previous year, but well below levels recorded before the 1979 revolution.

Iran to Invest in Agriculture, Industrial Sectors in Tajikistan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran is to establish plants as well as industrial and agricultural centres in Tajikistan under an agreement reached between the two countries' officials attending a session of the joint economic commission in Tehran on October 31.

An official at the Tajik Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations said in Dushanbe on Thursday that under the agreement Iran is to set up polyethylene, shoeshine, serum, animal and poultry medicine and leather plants in Tajikistan.

Moreover, Iran is to cooperate with Tajikistan in setting up poultry farms in three regions in Tajikistan, building silos and wheat storing warehouses and exploring mines and natural resources including oil and gas, in the republic.

Under the contract Iran would be active in reconstruction and building of power plants and dams in Tajikistan and to this end it will send teams of expers to that country for studies on the projects.

India's Oil Pool Account Deficit to Touch $4,428.57m

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - India's oil pool account deficit for the current fiscal year is expected to touch $4,428.57 million and the subsidy outgo $5,142.86 million, Indian Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, T.R. Balu, said.

Addressing the economic editors' conference in New Delhi yesterday, the minister said a further revision of prices of petro-products to contain the growing deficit would depend on the collective decision of the cabinet, IRNA reported.

The ministry had projected the deficit on oil pool account at $1,428.57 million in the beginning of the current year.

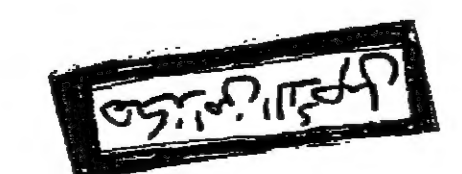
Decline in domestic crude production by two million tons during 1996-97 compared to the previous year and increased import and hike in crude prices in the international market following U.S. attack on Iraq have commulatively contributed to the deficit.

Prices of petroleum products, including petrol, LPG and diesel were increased by 25 percent immediately after the United Front government assumed office in June. Following protests, the government scaled down the hike in diesel by 15 percent.

Balu said the subsidy that the government was providing for diesel, kerosene and LPG which was brought down to $2,851.43 million, after the recent price hike, had now gone up to $5,142.86 million.

He also said the country would become self-sufficient by the turn of the century with the refining capacity going upto 130 million tons against the expected demand for petroleum products of 113 million tons, thus leaving a surplus of 17 million tons.

The petroleum and natural gas secretary, Vijay Kelkar, said an estimated 1.5 billion dollar private investment was expected in this sector over the next five years.



Jalali Collage Works: Juxtaposition of Traditional and Modern Arts



Jalali

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Barg Gallery put on exhibit Oct. 15-21, some best collage works by Dr. Behnam Jalali Ja'fari who has made a name for himself in contemporary arts.

Dr. Jalali also a musician and professor of arts in Tehran universities, was born in 1941 in Tehran. His collage works reflect impressions of traditional Iranian and Western art, bearing an spiritual sense. His collage exhibition was very welcomed by the visitors.

In an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*, Dr. Jalali talked about himself and his works.

Jalali's interest in musics and painting since his childhood enticed him to spend his teens in the School of Visual Arts, and receive his high school diploma in the field.

It was after his diploma that the young artist migrated to Britain to receive his B.A. in fashion designing and printing on cloths. He continued his education in France and received his Ph.D. in arts. Currently, he is teaching in art universities in Tehran.

On his style of work he says: "I don't know what my style is. I just do the painting; but I try to contain messages in my works to the world today. I try to have my painting be in conformity with the contemporary aesthetics in its form, habitat, and techniques."

Jalali started his works with imaging many years ago. Then he became acquainted with Iranian literature, poetry and painting with watercolor.

"I felt a need for being acquainted with the nature and I experienced acquaintance with nature and human beings for years which lead me to the art of 'collage'," Jalali expressed.

Collage means a technique of composing a work of art by sticking or pasting i.e. different materials such as wood, cloths, glasses, metals and various kinds of weaving (not normally associated with one another) are combined on a single surface, he explained.

Collage helps the spectators to grasp the reality of materials, to make them palpable, to touch them in mind. There is no need for similarization in collage works and it is possible to use a piece of cloth to demonstrate an outfit.

Collage inherits an old history from Iranian arts. It is used on the cover of books or inside. Collage is also used in forms of illuminations and florally decorated borders as well as in calligraphy. Even during the Qajari era the artists have used the technique of collage for creating realistic works, Jalali said adding that, however, after years of working on world collage he was lead toward pure, abstract painting.



Pomegranates (oil color + petroleum)

The abstract painting has various branches namely art minimal, pope art, art conceptual, etc.

Asked on the status of Iranian arts he said: I am very optimistic on the future of Iranian arts specially the art of painting, because I observe a great progress in Iranian arts in each era and the history (of Iranian arts) is a solid proof. Jalali expressed.

Lifeless Nature in Apples (ink + collage)

Today, we also witness bright developments in Iranian arts in a speedy sequence and high quality. We also experience variation of styles and methods of works in the modern Iranian arts which proves the livelihood of the Iranian arts society and it also shows the liberty which exists in this society, thus leading to a dynamic art community.

"I believe there exist almost sufficient facilities for an artist in Iran and there is no real restrictions or limitations; I suggest some works by elite artists from other countries be exhibited in Iran along with the works of Iranian artists. It is also worthy to provide facilities for Iranian artists to travel abroad to make researches on other artists' work, Jalali claimed.

In Iran we see an ever-increasing number of arts universities and schools, the efficiency of which will be proved in the near future.

"An artist should own pure and ranking feelings. An artist should be honest about his art work. He should own enough knowledge about the principles of art and its philosophy. Art means feeling the spiritual beauties and expressing them, which requires regular practice and much experience; more vital for being an artist is patience and self-sacrificing."

Jalali participated in some 10 group exhibitions in Paris, he also in the biannual exhibition in the Museum of Contemporary Arts. He had two individual exhibitions in Isfahan and four exhibitions in Tehran. He also attended two biannuals and received the plaque of honor in the second one from the Museum. He was elected one of the elite artists in the same biannual.

Gabbeh Premiered at London Film Festival

LONDON — Mohsen Makhmalbaf's Gabbeh is being premiered in Britain at the London Film Festival tomorrow before going on general release in the UK later this month.

The film, distributed in the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), gives a visual glimpse of nomadic tribal life in southeastern Iran.

Makhmalbaf had been invited to the premier, but the Iranian director was said to have been unable to attend at the last minute through ill-health. The distributors still held the prospect of having a phone or fax interview.

Gabbeh is due to go on release at the ICA in London on November 22 and is expected to run for at least a month before being shown at other selected cinema's around the country.

The ICA in August showed the first two films of a trilogy by veteran Iranian director, Abbas Kiarostami, the award-winning 'Where Is the Friend's House' from 1987 and its sequel, 'And Life Is On' made in 1992. *(IRNA)*

Percy Shelley to Be Honored at Home, at Last

HORSHAM, England — Hommage to the most lyrical debter, atheist and vegetarian to have come from this small town will be paid 200 years late, when a statue is erected in memory of the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, the Local Council said on Monday.

CBairman of Horsham District Council, Alan Chisholm, said that Shelley had been "radical, controversial and ahead of his time." Shelley's modernist views had cast him out of favor among the rural population.

But now, the council has decided that it is time for "making amends for 200 years of neglect afforded to possibly the town's greatest son."

Shelley, who was born in 1792, came from a well-connected family as son of the local politician Timothy Shelley. He died at the age of 29 in a boating accident in Italy.



On November 13, Horsham Council will unveil a statue inspired by Shelley's poem *Mont Blanc*, crafted by the artist Angela Conner. The project was funded by the Sainsbury Food Retailer. *(AFP)*

Byzantine and Islamic Art Exhibition

ATHENS — A young Greek lady was inspired after reading the Holy Qoran to start painting Islamic calligraphy.

"I started taking interest in Islamic paintings after reading the Qoran in Greek two years ago," painter Evangelia Spyropoulos, 27, told IRNA.

An exhibition of her paintings on Islamic and Byzantine religious art was inaugurated at the Iranian Cultural Center in Athens Thursday night. It is her second exhibition.

The 22 paintings on display include religious art of monks from monasteries of Mount Athos in northern Greece.

The Islamic collections are calligraphic art copied from the opening chapters of the Holy Qoran.

Spyropoulos said that during a visit to a bookshop, she saw some books on Islamic and Iranian paintings and calligraphy and made up her mind to try her hand at Islamic art.

"The Byzantine and Islamic art are two great pillars of art," she said. The Greek painter also began learning Arabic to help her in the calligraphic paintings.

She is planning to hold an exhibition abroad.

"I would like to present my compliments to the Iranian Cultural Center which showed a particular sensitiveness to both these unities of art and offered to help me in this effort," she added to IRNA.

The exhibition will be open till November 21. *(IRNA)*

Lebanon's Film Makers in Conflict Over Civil War

BEIRUT — Lebanon's film industry, plagued by a shortage of funds and burdened by strict censorship, is divided over whether the time has come to deal with the pain of the 1975-90 civil war.

The country's modest movie business, never big enough to challenge the Arabic-language Hollywood of Egypt in the best of days, produces only a few films which play to small audiences.

The latest was "Al-Sheikha," a 1995 Swedish-financed production about street gangs which was screened in only one movie theater and barely sold 12,000 admission tickets.

At the same time, the Hollywood blockbusters that most Lebanese movie theaters show attract tens of thousands of moviegoers. Even Egyptian films do not bring in as many viewers.

"In Lebanon, we have no means, no proper national cinema center and no advance payments against returns," said Lebanese film director Borhane Alawiyeh.

Ghassan Abou Chakra, director of the Cinema Department at the Ministry of Culture, said, "We are working on a system that would help provide proper funding for scripts selected by a reading committee."

The censor wields his knife against films touching on ethnic-religious differences, moral matters and "brotherly" countries, a reference mainly to Syria, which is the major power broker in Lebanon and has about 35,000 troops stationed in the country.

Alawiyeh, a strong advocate of making films about the war, said, "We should fight amnesia. It's impossible for a script to be unaffected by the war. The public wants to see and understand."

The civil war began with a Palestinian attack on a Christian group and erupted into intercommunal fighting.

"On the contrary, what we need is movies to let off steam," retorted Alain Plisson who founded the first film club in Lebanon in 1956.

Plisson said, "We should not forget, of course, but we should let our memories rest for a while. How many years did it take the Americans to film movies about Vietnam?" he said.

"After all the difficult years, people want to laugh," he said citing the success of *"The Storm Blows Twice,"* a Lebanese television movie cross between the U.S. serial Dallas and Mexican soap operas.

For the past five years, Plisson has been teaching film history and techniques at the Lebanese Fine Arts Academy, a private college in Beirut. *(AFP)*

Art and Culture News in Brief

Compiled from Dispatches

Allameh Ja'fari to Be Honored

TEHRAN — During the 10th Congress on Nahj ul-Balagheh on "Ali (AS). Mystisim and Justice", to be held next month, the great scholar Allameh Mohammad Taghi Ja'fari, along with some other prominent researchers and authors will be honored.

Allameh Ja'fari has published so far over 90 works on Nahj ul-Balagheh as well as the life and personality of Imam Ali (AS). Amir of the believers and epitome of the pious.

The congress is to be held Nov. 25, 1996 (Azar 5, 1375), concurrent with the birth anniversary of Imam Ali (AS) at Hosseiniyeh Ershad, Tehran.

'Under the Olive Trees' to Be Screened Free in Paris

PARIS — The Iranian film 'Zeer-e Derakhtan-e Zeitoon' (Under the Olive Trees), directed by Abbas Kiarostami, is to be screened free in Paris at UNESCO Cultural Center on Nov. 12 and 15.

Iranian Documentary Films in Leipzig Fest

GERMANY — Leipzig 39th International Film Festival, which had started its work (Oct. 29) screening an Iranian film, concluded its work last week, granting its first prize to an Indian film: *Ajir*, directed by Arvind Sinha.

The Iranian film *'Arrosakhay-e Kams'* (Kams Dolls) by Bahram Azeempour, was the first film screened in the fest.

Kams Dolls pictures the kids in one of the villages of Kurestan Province in Iran whose toys are nothing but hand-made dolls. The dolls are the protagonists of the film, indeed, which narrate the joys and sorrows of the villagers there.

The festival was on Iranian documentaries, during which 18 films, directed in Iran or outside the country were screened.

Bronson: Still Alive and Kicking

WASHINGTON — The veteran movie star Charles Bronson, 75, is still alive and kicking. He has a cob movie, *Police Family*, on screen now.

Isabelle Adjani to Chair Cannes Film Festival Jury

PARIS — French film star Isabelle Adjani will chair the jury at the 50th Cannes Film Festival, taking place on the French Riveria May 7-18 next year, organizers said.

Seen this year with Sharon Stone in the Hollywood remake of "Les Diaboliques," Adjani is a two-time winner of the Cannes prize for best actress.

Past Cannes jury chairmen have included Francis Ford Coppola, Clint Eastwood, Jeanne Moreau and Gerard Depardieu.



SPORTS SOCCER ROUNDUP

SOCCER-WORLD CUP QUALIFYING TABLE

Tehran Times Service

GROUP ONE

Greece	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
Denmark	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Croatia	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Bosnia	2	0	0	2	1	7	0
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

RESULTS:

April 24: Greece 2 (Batista 26, Nikolaidis 66) Slovenia 0, Sept 1: Greece 3 (Ouzonidis 41, Apostolakis 77, Nikolaidis 83) Bosnia 0, Slovenia 0 Denmark 2 (A Nielsen 78, S Andersen 89). Oct 8: Bosnia 1 (Salihamidzic 25) Croatia 4 (Bilic 14, Vlaovic 32, Boksic 63, 84), Oct 9: Denmark 2 (Zogorakis 26og, B. Laudrup 51) Greece 1 (Donis 36)

GROUP TWO

England	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Italy	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Poland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Georgia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Moldova	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

RESULTS:

Moldova 0 England 3 (Barmby 23, Gascoigne 24, Shearer 61) Moldova 1 (Curtianu 11) Italy 3 (Ravanelli 8, 86 pen, Casiraghi 68), Oct 9: Italy 1 (Ravanelli 42) Georgia 0, England 2 (Shearer 25, 38) Poland 1 (Citko 7)

GROUP THREE

Norway	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Hungary	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Azerbaijan	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
Finland	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

RESULTS:

June 2: Norway 5 (Solbakken 8, 46, Solskjaer 37, 89, Strandli 60) Azerbaijan 0. Aug 31: Azerbaijan 1 (Rizayev 28) Switzerland 0. Sept 1: Hungary 1 (Orosz 16) Finland 0. Oct 6: Finland 2 (Sumiala 40pen, Kolkka 74) Switzerland 3 (Lombardo 14, Sforza 34, Yakine 54) Oct 9: Norway 3 (Rekdal 83, 89, 90pen) Hungary 0.

GROUP FOUR

Sweden	2	2	0	1	7	3	6
Scotland	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Austria	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Belarus	4	1	1	2	3	7	4
Estonia	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Latvia	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

*Estonia v Scotland to be replayed following fifa decision on November 7.

RESULTS

June 1: Sweden 5 (K Andersson 2, Dahlin, P Andersson, K Larsson) Belarus 1 (Belkevich). Aug 31: Austria 0 Scotland 0, Belarus 1 (Makovsky) Estonia 0. Sept 1: Latvia 1 (Rimkus) Sweden 2 (Dahlin, K Andersson). Oct 5: Latvia 0 Scotland 2 (Collins 11, Jackson 78), Estonia 1 (Khokhlov-Simson 74) Belarus 0, Oct 9: Estonia v Scotland — to be replayed —, Sweden 0 Austria 1 (Herzog 12), Belarus 1 (Makovsky 78) Latvia 1 (Zemlinsky 16)

GROUP FIVE

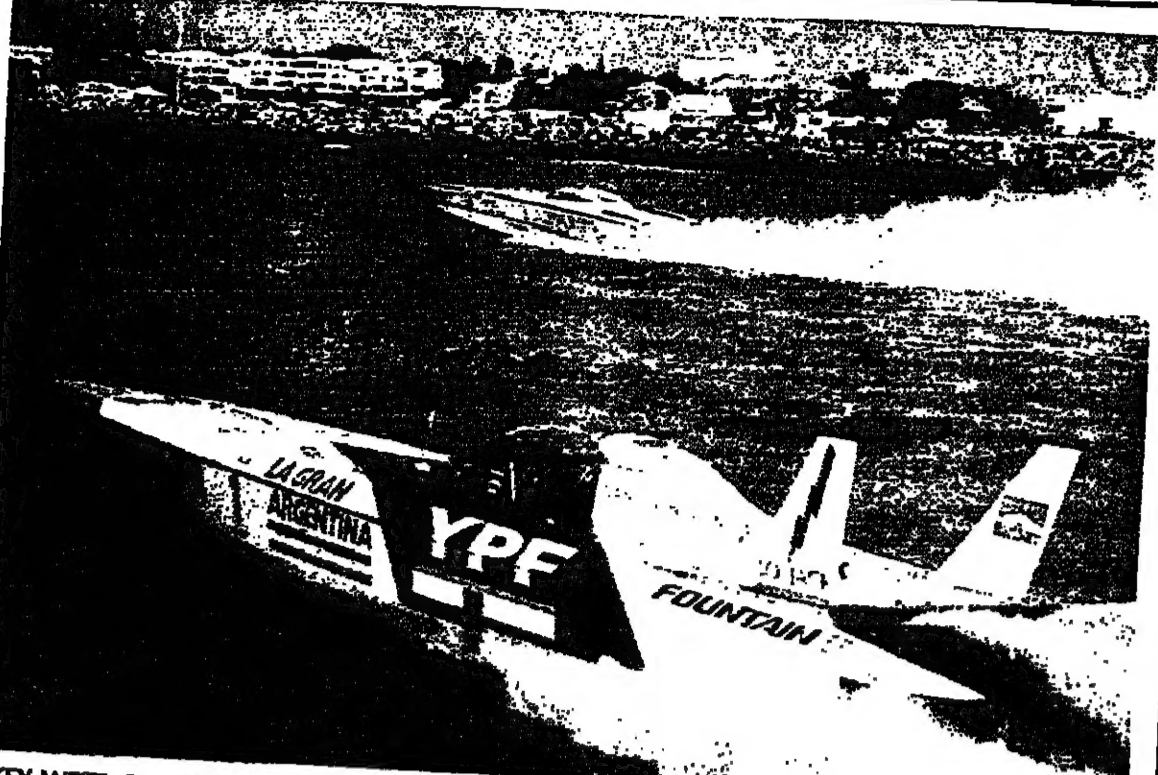
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Israel	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Bulgaria	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

RESULTS: Israel 2 (R Harazi 33, Banin 62pen) Bulgaria 1 (Balakov 3), Russia 4 (Nikiforov 7, 50, Kolyvanov 34, Beschastnykh 83) Cyprus 0. Oct 8: Luxembourg 1 (Langers 20) Bulgaria 2 (Balakov 14 pen, Kostadinov 37), Israel 1 (Brumer 63) Russia 1 (Kolyvanov 79)

GROUP SIX

Yugoslavia	3	3	0	0	17	2	9
Slovakia	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Czech Republic	2	1	1	0	6	0	4
Spain	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Faroe Isles	4	0	0	4	5	19	0
Malta	3	0	0	3	0	18	0

RESULTS: Apr 24: Yugoslavia 3 (Savicevic 3, 30, Milosevic 38) Faroe Isles 1 (J Petersen 54). June 2: Yugoslavia 6 (Milosevic 2, 68, Mijatovic 39, Stojkovic 46, Savicevic 70pen, 73) Malta 0. Aug 31: Faroe Isles 1 (Muller 60) Slovakia 2 (Moravcik 58, Dubovsky 89). Sept 4: Faroe Isles 2 (Jonsson 46, Arge 90) pain 6 (Luis Enrique 37, Alfonso 63, 83, 86, Johannesen 70og, Hierro 85). Sept 18: Czech Republic 6 (Berger 12, 62pen, Nedved 24, Kubik 77, Smicer 83, Frydek 87) Malta 0. Sept 22: Slovakia 6 (Tittel 13, 81, Simon 16, Zeman 36, Timko 56, Dubovsky 59) Malta 0. Oct 6: Faroe Islands 1 (Mueller 26) Yugoslavia 8 (Milosevic 7, 36, 45, Jokanovic 10, 57, Mijatovic 30, Jugovic 68, Stojkovic 90) Oct 9: Czech Republic 0 Spain 0



KEY WEST, FL, USA (November 6): Daniel Scioli of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Fabio Buzzi of Annone Brianza, Italy, pilot their fin-tailed La Gran Argentina to a Superboat Vee-Class victory, at the first of two powerboat races of the Key West World Championship. The duo averaged 91.51 mph over the 130 miles course off the Florida Keys. The second and concluding event is scheduled for November 9.

(AFP PHOTO)

New Zealand Beat Sri Lanka By 29 Runs

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates — New Zealand beat world champions Sri Lanka by 29 runs in the opening match Thursday of the Three-Nation Singer Champions Trophy Cricket Tournament here.

The Sri Lankans, who were chasing New Zealand's modest score of 206 for 8 wickets, were all dismissed for 177 in 49.1 overs of the allotted 50 over match.

Earlier when batting, New Zealand showed remarkable batting with Chris Cairns stroking a hefty 71 off 91 balls, his play gave New Zealand's score a good boost and earned him the USD 1,000 "Man of the Match" award.

This is the fourth time New Zealand beat Sri Lanka at the Sharjah Stadium.

Sent into bat by Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, New Zealand had slumped for 48 for 4 by the 14th over.

Sri Lanka's left-handed paceman Chaminda Vaas and Sanjeewa De Silva shook new zealand with two wickets each in their opening overs.

But Cairns struck four sixes, two off top spinner Sanath Jayasuriya, as he reached his 50 off 75 balls, he was dismissed when he mistimed a big hit and was caught behind by wicket keeper Romesh Kaluwitharna in Upul Chandana's bowling, making the score 165 for 6 in the 42nd over.

Opener Craig Spearman also made a fine 39, while Chris Harris scored 34.

Sri Lanka, who left out experienced batsman Roshan Mahanama, needed to score just over four runs an over to win the match. They started their innings well scoring 40 off first 10 overs, but later fell prey to New Zealand's good bowling and tight fielding.

Aravinda De Silva, who hit 47 off 74 deliveries, was the highest scorer for the Sri Lankan side.

The victory gives New Zealand a good chance of lifting the dlrs 30,000 first prize in the this three-nation tournament, which also includes Pakistan. The three teams - New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan - will face each other twice with the top two teams playing in the nov. 15 final. *(AP)*

Swedes into quarter-finals

STOCKHOLM, — Defending champion Thomas Enqvist just managed to claw his way into the quarter-finals of the Stockholm open late Thursday 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2) against American Challenger Chris Woodruff.

Third-seeded Enqvist, 22, the main drawcard here after Tuesday's opening-round farewell defeat of Stefan Edberg, took more than 90 minutes to book his berth at the Kungliga Hall, where he now plays the winner of a late match between swedes Nicklas Kulti and Patrik Fredriksson.

Kulti gained infamy Tuesday after ending the career of Stefan Edberg in the first round here as the veteran Swede retired on schedule after the defeat.

"I wasn't so surprised that it was difficult," said Enqvist of Woodruff. "He's not easy to play since he hits very hard and takes the ball early.

"But I'm feeling in top shape now and have confidence in my game."

Home players figure in three of Friday's four contests, with only an All-American matchup between second seed Todd Martin and seventh seed Richey Reneberg spoiling Swedish domination.

Young players Magnus Norman, 20, and 21-year-old Thomas Johansson both earlier booked their quarterfinal spots.

Norman defeated German Alex Radulescu 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, while Johansson took a 6-3, 6-3 decision against Filip Dewulf of Belgium.

Enqvist is defending winner's points from last year at Stockholm, when he won his fifth title of 1995 with a victory over Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch.

The Swedish no. 1 has failed to duplicate his last year's showing, winning only the trophy at New Delhi so far in 1996.

But the Swede came into the home event fresh from the Mercedes Super 9 series title at Paris last week. "I'm playing some of the best tennis of my career, but I hope I can improve it even more," he said.

Enqvist broke to start the match against Woodruff, but found himself back on serve when the 23-year-old American from Tennessee broke back for 4-all.

The Swede won the first-set tiebreaker, then fell behind in the second set as Woodruff broke early. Enquist levelled at 5-5 took a 6-1 lead in the second tiebreaker and advanced two points later.

(AFP)

FIFA To Create Intercontinental Nations Cup

ZURICH — Football's world governing body FIFA on Thursday gave the green light to the creation of a new competition — an Eight-Nation Intercontinental Cup Winners' Cup.

The tournament would be held every two or four years and would feature the winners of championships in the six continents recognised by FIFA.

The first edition of the new championship is slated to be held from December 12 to 21 of next year in Saudi arabia, which has already hosted two similar but unofficial tournaments.

The event, for which a draw will be made in Riyadh on February 21, will feature two groups of four nations.

The qualifying teams, aside from world champions Brazil and the hosts, are South American champions Uruguay, North and Central American and Caribbean champions Mexico, African champions South Africa, Australia or Tahiti from Occania and European champions Germany or the Czech Republic (who will step in if Germany choose not to compete).

Asia's representatives will be chosen next month after their championship in the United Arab Emirates.

Australia still have to play Tahiti in a second leg to clinch their place, but are already 6-0 up from the first match.

(AFP)

Magic Begins Tokyo Tour With 13-Point Victory Over Nets

TOKYO — Anfernee Hardaway scored 23 points as the Orlando Magic opened American National Basketball Association's two-game Japan tour with a 108-95 victory over New Jersey nets Thursday night.

The game marked the NBA'S fourth regular-season foray to Japan, the other three coming in 1990, 1992 and 1994. This year, NBA exhibition games also were played in Berlin, Seville and Mexico city.

Turnovers and cold shooting hurt the nets in the second half as they suffered their second defeat of the new season. Both teams had lost their season openers before moving to Tokyo for two games. The second will be played Saturday.

The Nets led 59-57 in the third quarter before the Magic went on an 11-point run, including six points by David Vaughn, that put them up 68-59.

Kendall Gill led the Nets with 22, and Shawn Bradley had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Six other games were played Wednesday night in the United States, several hours before the Tokyo game.

(AP)

Avalanche 4, Sharks 1

SAN JOSE, California.— Keith Jones, obtained by Colorado in a weekend trade, scored twice and Patrick Roy maintained his unbeaten record against the Sharks as the Avalanche defeated San Jose 4-1.

Jones, acquired from the Washington capitals on Saturday, scored a power-play goal in the second period and scored again in the third period as the Avalanche extended their unbeaten streak to seven games.

Roy, who now has an 11-0-1 career record against the Sharks and has held them to 12 goals in 18 games, stopped 28 shots. He was working on a shutout until Al Iafrate scored for San Jose with 10:21 left in the third period.

(AP)

Bulls 106, Miami 100

MIAMI — Michael Jordan scored 50 points Wednesday night and the unbeaten Chicago Bulls rallied from a 15-point deficit to beat the Miami Heat.

Jordan hit 18 of 33 field-goal attempts and 13 of 14 free throws. The performance was his most prolific since he scored 53 points against Detroit on march 7.

Alonzo mourning had 33 points and 19 rebounds for Miami. Dennis Rodman grabbed 22 rebounds fc. the bulls.

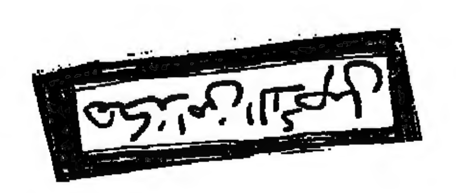
Miami trailed 79-63, then closed to 88-83. But Jordan scored 10 points in the final six minutes. He also had the Bulls' first 11 points and 15 of their 19 in the opening period.

(AP)

Hornets 88, Lakers 78

In CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, Matt Geiger provided an unlikely boost to Charlotte's injury-depleted backcourt by making four 3-pointers as the Hornets halted the Lakers'

(AP)





ISLAMABAD, Pakistan: (November 6) The deposed Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto (L) walks up with her political secretary Naheed Khan (R) to address her first news conference at her former official residence. Bhutto demanded that Pakistan President Farooq Leghari, the man who dismissed her government, step down.

(AFP PHOTO)

Armed Rebels Attack Gambian Military Camp

BANJUL — Unidentified gunmen attacked a Gambian military camp Friday, leaving at least two people dead and several injured, officials said.

The pre-dawn attack took place 150 kilometers (about 95 miles) east of Banjul on the road leading from the Senegalese capital, Dakar, to the Senegalese province of Casamance, passing through Gambia.

Officials said they did not know how many gunmen attacked, their nationality or their motive.

But unconfirmed reports said they were rebels loyal to President Dawda Jawara, who was overthrown in a military coup. They want to free former Vice President Sehu Sabally who is being held at the camp that was attacked, these reports say.

The capital Banjul was tense after the attack, with people stocking up petrol and food, witnesses said.

The small West African country's current President, Colonel Yahya Jammeh, ousted Jawara in 1994. Jammeh went on to win a presidential election held in September.

In recent days Jammeh has granted amnesty to 11 detained army officers and 12 political prisoners, including two former ministers and a brother-in-law of Jawara. Jammeh said he was acting in the interest of national reconciliation.

Legislative elections that are supposed to complete Gambia's return to democratic rule are scheduled for December 11.

(AFP)

Syria Reacts Cautiously to Netanyahu's Suggestion

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria suggested Friday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was not serious when he said the "time was right" for the two to restart peace talks.

Netanyahu made the remark Thursday amid American efforts to calm tensions that followed military maneuvers by both sides on the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967.

"Someone who does not respect the already signed accords cannot be trusted and he is certainly incapable of making peace with others," said *Al-Thawra*, a government newspaper.

The editorial was referring to Israel's agreements with the Palestinians. Netanyahu has refused to carry out Israel's long-overdue withdrawal from Al-Khalil, the last West Bank city under occupation, *and weeks of negotiations have* yielded little.

Talks between Syria and Israel were suspended in February following bombings in Israel.

Syria has demanded the return of the Golan, which Netanyahu says is vital to Israel's security. The editorial urged Washington to play a bigger role in reaching an agreement.

(AP)

Iran, Vietnam Discuss Cultural-Scientific Cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR — Vietnamese Minister of Education and Training, Tran Quan, on Thursday called for expansion of scientific and cultural cooperation between Tehran and Hanoi.

Tran, in his meeting in Hanoi with visiting Iranian Deputy Minister of Education, Mohammadian, praised the work of Iran's Education Ministry as well as recent successes of Iranian students at the world scientific olympiads.

Mohammadian, in a separate meeting in Hanoi on Thursday with Vietnam's deputy education and training minister, exchanged views on educational, scientific and cultural issues.

Mohammadian briefed his Vietnamese counterpart on Iran's succesful campaign against illiteracy, the expansion of educational facilities, the removal of discrimination between the education of girls and boys, the new secondary school system and the offering of *education to families.* (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN...

Free-Style Wrestling, currently being held here at Azadi Sports Complex, the free-style wrestling teams of Iran and Cuba scored victories over the wrestling teams from Uzbekistan and Russia respectively.

The Iranian team, which had scored victory over Cuban wrestlers on the first day of competitions with the score of 7-3, on Friday morning defeated the Uzbek team 7-3, with the technical points of 22-14.

Babak Nourzad, 48-kg.
Behnam Tayyebi, 52-kg.
Ali-Akbar Dodangeh, 57-kg.
Bahman Shahbazi, 62-kg.
Abdorreza Kargar, 90-kg.
Ali-Reza Rezaee, 100-kg. and Ebrahim Mehrban were the Iranian wrestlers who beat their *Uzbek opponents.*

Prior to the contest between the Iranian and Uzbek wrestling teams, the Cuban and Russian free-style wrestlers competed with each other. The outcome was the victory of Cuban team 7-3, and in terms of technical points 24-15.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CLINTON...

for the top diplomat's job was *former Senator George Mitchell,* who was earlier this year appointed as peace envoy for Northern Ireland and Clinton's debate coach during the campaign.

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright was also seen as a candidate for the post, as were Bosnia peacemaker Richard Holbrooke and Colin Powell, the former joint chiefs of staff chairman.

Clinton chief of staff Leon Panetta, Defense Secretary William Perry, Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, Transportation Secretary Federico *Pena and Energy Secretary Hazel* o'Leary were also expected to announce their resignations.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

UN...

to sit at the negotiations, any effort made to end the civil war in that country would bear no result.

Ghali and Kharrazi also reviewed the results of last week's Tehran conference on Afghanistan, attended by nine countries and four international organizations, including the UN.

Kharrazi said the Tehran conference has paved the way for all countries concerned to take part in the upcoming UN conference on Afghanistan.

He hoped for the success of the UN conference on Afghanistan.

On the quadrilateral meeting held in Tehran between Sudan, Uganda, Iran and Malawi on October 29th, to hammer out a peace agreement between Sudan and Uganda, the Iranian envoy said the two African countries have agreed to continue their dialogue in Kampala, and have placed emphasis on their commitments to "Khartoum peace agreement."

The Khartoum agreement was signed by Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Othman Muhammad Taha and his Ugandan counterpart Eriya Kategaya, during the recent visit to Africa by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Malawi was an observer at the peace meeting sponsored by Iran.

Ghali welcomed Iran's peace making activities.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

BAHRAIN...

Hague, a move challenged by Bahrain before agreeing in September to present its own case to the court.

The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa ibn Salman al-Khalifa, has said that Manama preferred to settle the dispute with Arab help and avoid the ICJ.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARAFAT...

delayed military redeployment from Al-Khalil since last Thursday and both sides have blamed each other for the impasse.

Under the terms of 1995 autonomy accords, Israel was to withdraw from four-fifths of Al-Khalil in March and hand the West Bank town over to Palestinian municipal control.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Thursday to "intervene personally" to back demands to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said.

Netanyahu told a settlers delegation he would "intervene in person to remove administrative obstacles" to the enlargement of certain settlements and the construction of new roads around Palestinian population centers, they said.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

DE CHARTTE...

prospects of a "fruitful future" for economic relatons between the two countries, he told journalists.

These concerned gas and oil, the purchase of aircraft, beef and communications equipment.

Iran was also negotiating with the French Oil Company ELF which had sent a delegation to Iran three weeks ago.

During his visit he had noted "a firm desire that economic cooperation should develop".

Vaezi, who met French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on Thursday, said that De Charette had said he wanted France to become "Iran's biggest economic trading partner".

France wanted to develop bilateral relations without taking any account of us measures to penalise European companies investing in hydrocarbons *industries in Iran and Libya.*

Vaezi, during his visit here, also met the minister for infrastructure Bernard Pons, and was received at the presidential palace.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TASKHIRI...

In a separate meeting with the professors of Eastern Studies of the faculty of London University, Hojjatoleslam Taskhiri underlined the need for expanding facilities for Persian language studies and research to be incorporated in the curricula offered to the *ulama*, researchers and students taking up Islamology and courses in Oriental studies.

Hojjatoleslam Taskhiri is in London to attend the conference on the Power of Islam and to commemorate the passing away of the late Dr. Kalim Siddiqi, head of the London-based Muslim Institute and founder of the Muslim Parliament of England.

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran:

Max. temp. 19°C
Min. temp. 10°C

Clear to partly cloudy with dust with wind and scattered showers

Warmest Point:
Minab 33°C

Coldest Point:
Firouzkoh -1°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	—	Vienna	11
Istanbul	--	Moscow	—
Rome	18	Madrid	18
Athens	—	Abu Dhabi	31
London	10	Karachi	31
Paris	13	New Delhi	25
Frankfurt	9	Kuwait	28

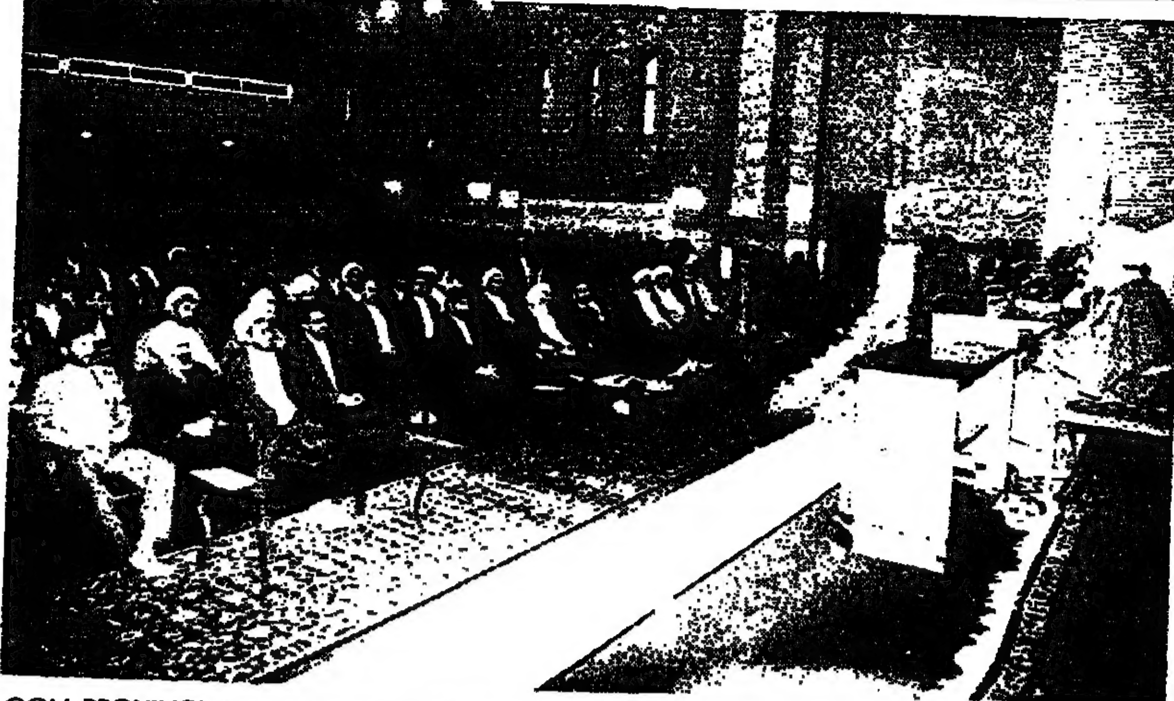
Tehran-Moscow Scientific, Technical Relations Discussed

MOSCOW — The Russian Vice-Premier Vladimir Fertov here Wednesday called for further expansion of Tehran-Moscow ties in scientific and technical fields.

Fertov who is also director of the Russian Institute of Economic Analysis, made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Moscow, Mehdi Safari.

Holding the second exhibition of Russian technological achievements in Iran was among major topics discussed in the meeting. The Iranian ambassador invited Fertov to pay a visit to Iran.

Welcoming the invitation, the Russian official said that Iran and Russia enjoy historical cultural and social relations. *(IRNA)*



QOM PROVINCE (November 7): Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, addresses a group of the province's educational authorities on Thursday.

Pakistan's Interim Government Plans to Prosecute Graft Accused

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan's new caretaker government plans to introduce a law preventing those charged with corruption from running in February elections and aims to ensure recovery of outstanding bank loans from politicians and industrialists, officials said Friday.

An accountability law was also being drafted to prosecute people accused of corruption in the administration and business, the officials said. The law will be enacted in a few days.

President Farooq Ahmed Leghari dismissed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Tuesday, accusing her three-year old government of rampant corruption, mismanagement and lawlessness resulting in the deaths of thousands of people.

Leghari, who ordered new elections for February 3, said corruption in the Bhutto era had become so grave that in some cases it endangered national security.

The Bhutto government had prepared a list of 250 bank loan defaulters which included some opposition politicians. Similarly, Bhutto's chief political rival, top opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, had submitted a list of 250 defaulters which included Bhutto party members.

Caretaker Premier Malik Meraj Khalid, who took over after Bhutto's ouster, said an accountability law would ensure only the most "trust-worthy and upright" people were elected in February.

The government would follow an "even-handed" policy and there would be no discrimination, he told reporters in the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore on Thursday.

He said the process of accountability had already started and his government was taking economic, administrative and other measures into account.

The interim government sacked hundreds of civil servants who were reemployed by the Bhutto government on their retirement, terminated the jobs of more than a dozen advisors of the deposed premier and 18 ambassadors appointed by Bhutto were recalled after the change of adminstration. *(AFP)*

Kashani: No Military Solution to Afghan Crisis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani said the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced time and again that there is no military solution to the afghan crisis and that the current developments in that country have made the world realize this fact.

He made the satement in his Friday prayer sermons at Tehran University campus.

The senior ayatollah said that in view of the political, ethnic and religious differences between the various Afghan factions and groups, no single group can impose itself on the country.

It would be in the interest of the Afghan people to have a broad-based government composed of all factions, but establishment of such a government is not possible through war, the Friday prayer leader poitned out.

Ayatollah Kashani, who is a member of the Guardians Council, warned outsiders against meddling in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and said that Afghan people support the initiatives of the proponents of peace and security, and not the foreigners who stirred up the situation and created unrest in their homeland.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran had on various occasions offered its services for settlement of problems faced by countries, especially those by Muslim and neighboring states.

The world also knows that Iran is for peace and stability, he added.

Ayatollah Khashani touched on Iran's efforts to resolve problems faced by regional and African states and said that many countries have expressed confidence in Islamic Iran after its mediation efforts brought about fruitful results.

Ayatollah Kashani alluded to the ongoing events in Pakistan and said that what is going on in that neighboring country is an internal issue and in accordance with the national constitution and legal procedure, having nothing to do with Tehran-Islamabad ties.

He underlined that what was important was that the Iranian and Pakistani people were "friends and brothers" who shared deep bonds and maintained cordial ties.

Ayatollah Kashani devoted the first sermon of his Friday prayer to the anniversaries of the passing away of grand Ayatollahs Seyed Mohammad-Reza Golpayegani, Sheikh Mohammad-Ali Araki and Allamah Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Tabatabaie (author of al-Mizan the famous commentary on the Holy Qoran).

He called on universities to study the views of great Islamic scholars along with the works of Western intellectuals.

He congratulated the faithful on the birth anniversary of Imam Mohammad al-Baqer, the 5th Infallible successor to Prophet Mohammad (S).

Ayatollah Kashani said the 5th Imam known as "Baqer al-Uloom" (one who splits open knowledge), was born in the year 57 A.H. (676 A.D.) in Medina on the 1st of Rajab (falling this year on Nov. 13).

The ayatollah added that as a four-year old, the Imam was present at the tragedy of Karbala where his grandfather Imam Hossein was martyred and his sick father Imam Ali ibn al-Hossein Zain al-Abedin was taken in chains along with the womenfold and children of the prophet's household to the court of the Omayyid tyrant Yazid in Damascus.

Imam Baqer's mother was Fatima the daughter of Imam Hassan; this indicating that the Imam was descended from the Prophet from both his parents.

Imam Baqer al-Uloom along with his son and successor, Imam Ja'far al-Sadeq, laid the foundation of the famous school of Islamic sciences of Medina, and after a period of 19 years of imamate, Imam Mohammad Baqer was martyred in 114 A.H. (732 A.D.) in Medina on the orders of the Omayyid caliph, Hisham ibn Abdel-Malik.

Zimbabwe Government Facing National Strike Over Health Crisis

HARARE — The beleaguered government of President Robert Mugabe is facing the threat of widespread strike action and nationwide protests over its controversial handling of a crippling health sector crisis.

The government, which has responded to a three-week health strike by sacking striking workers and arresting union leaders, was bracing itself for nationwide industrial action on Monday by both state and private workers outraged over its "insensitivity."

"We ... are deeply concerned about the impact on the health sector and therefore call upon any concerned (citizen) to join us in expressing our national outrage over the lack sensitivity on the part of the government," said Morgan Tsvangirayi, secretary general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), the umbrella body for all workers unions.

Defying a government ban issued Thursday on all street marches and demonstrations, the ZCTU has called for nationwide demonstration against the government's insensitivity to the plight of both its workers and the patients hit by the health stand-off.

Media reports have described sick patients being turned away and a death rate more than doubled in some hospitals as the strike by thousands of government nurses and doctors entered its 19th day Friday.

Meanwhile, university students started a protest campaign against a slash in their grants, threatening to unleash a wave of social unrest in the Southern African nation.

The health sector strike was launched last month as doctors and nurses stopped work in their bid to secure a year-end pay bonus, increased night pay, a risk allowance and other benefits.

But the government has refused to accede to their demands, accusing the striking workers of irresponsibility and saying they should answer for the serious crisis which the strike has touched off in Zimbabwe's hospitals. *(AFP)*

Conservative Bloc Set to Win Lithuanian Parliamentary Polls

VILNIUS — Right-wing Nationalists are poised to consolidate their grip on the new Lithuanian Parliament in elections Sunday, after the first round of voting last month gave them a clear lead.

Of the 141 seats in the Parliament, 70 were allocated by the proportional list system on October 20, and 69 will be decided by a second round of majority constituency voting Sunday.

In the first round last month, only two candidates were elected in the seats determined by majority constituency voting — Vytautas Landsbergis, the founding father of Modern Lithuania's Independence, and Gediminas Vagnorus, who is deputy leader of Landsbergis' Fatherland Union.

Thirty-two of the 70 seats allotted by the proportional list system went to the Fatherland Union and 11 seats to their Christian Democrat allies in the first round.

More than a dozen of the remaining 69 seats still to be decided will be contested by rival candidates from the Conservative bloc, and the Communists and candidates from minor parties will be marginalized.

The Conservative bloc is therefore certain to have a majority in the new Parliament and will form a new coalition government, in a dramatic reversal of their fortunes in elections four years ago.

"In 1992, we were the first country in Eastern Europe to see the Communists return to power, but now we are the first to oust them," said Sauluis Chaltianis, one of the leaders of the Fatherland Union, after the first round.

But Landsbergis' supporters will have to work together with President Algirdas Brazauskas, former secretary of the Soviet-era Lithuanian Communist Party, whose mandate runs until February 1998. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg.11)

MIGRANTS...

quired endless adaptation. We may remain where we are, but society is constantly transformed all around us, takes on strange unfamiliar shapes. We migrate without moving, we are migrated, perhaps, by stealth, without really being aware of it.

Migrants traumatized and disoriented; those driven to despair, crying their rage on windswept street corners, the preachers of passionate apocalypse outside the tube stations, the casualties of reluctant mobility, those hardened and embittered by too much abuse and humiliation; we should recognize ourselves in all of them, because they reflect to us our own experience, our own buffetings this way and that, the cruel reshapings, relearnings and adaptations we have had to make.

Just as we think we have achieved a moment of peace and security, when we can breathe freely and bring up the next generation, everything is swept away and we are moved on, sent on our wanderings, forced to adapt to yet another change that will not let us be. Our journeying, too, whatever materials gains it may bring, is also away from security, from self-reliance, from belonging. We should pay more attention to the fate of migrants; in them is our future, just as they are also the embodiment of our own past.

(Courtesy the Third World Network Features)

هكذا من الاحمل

Man Eaten by Lions

MIDDELBURG, South Africa — A 35-year-old man was devoured by lions on a game farm near here when he wandered into the bush, police said Friday.

Elphas Siwela was visiting friends on a game farm near South Africa's famed Kruger Park Sunday night when he was killed and eaten by a pride of five lions, a police spokesman told the Sapa News Agency.

The lions were later tracked down and shot, and fragments of Siwela's clothing and human bone were found in their digestive tracts. (AFP)

In Battle of Titans, Baby Bites Puppy

SOFIA — A baby girl with just eight teeth bit her family's fox terrier puppy three times to keep it away from her toys, the BTA news agency reported Thursday.

The clash between Darena, 16 months old, and the three-month-old canine was first reported in the newspaper Spectre in the northeastern Bulgarian city of Silistra, the agency said. (AFP)



MOHEDA, Sweden: (November 6) Residents sit outside a small shop and house and look at an overturned car, after a tornado ripped through the southern Swedish town of Moheda. Three people were slightly injured when their car was caught and overturned by the whirlwind. The tornado caused widespread damage in the Smaland region, officials said. (AFP PHOTO)

Nigerian Plane Missing With 141 Aboard

LAGOS, Nigeria — A search was underway for a Nigerian jet carrying 141 people. It was reported missing after losing contact with air traffic controllers en route to Lagos.

The Aviation Development Corp., owners of the missing Boeing 727, said the plane lost contact with the Murtala Mohammed Airport in Lagos at 5:05 p.m. (11:05 a.m. GMT) Thursday. The plane was about midway through its 50-minute flight from the southern city of Port Harcourt.

"Our men are all over the place" searching for the plane, said one official of the airline, speaking "I just hope, by the grace of God, that nothing bad has happened to the aircraft," the official said.

Darkness hampered the search, making it possible nothing definite would be known until daylight.

ADC, one of several private commercial airlines operating domestic flights in the West African country, said Flight 086 was carrying 132 passengers and nine crew members. It did not indicate what the weather was in the area where the plane disappeared, or whether the pilot had reported problems.

While the state-run Nigeria Airways has a reputation for inefficiency and lax safety standards, the country's privately run airlines have had relatively good safety records.

The last major crash involving a private, commercial airline occurred in June 1995, when a Harka Airline plane skidded off a rain-soaked runway at Lagos Airport and burst into flames, killing 16 people. (AP)

Niger Government Delays Elections

NIAMEY — The Niger government on Tuesday announced a 13-day postponement of general elections originally due November 10, and the reinstatement of an independent national electoral commission scrapped in July.

The announcement, which followed an emergency cabinet meeting, made clear that legislative elections would now take place on November 23.

Opposition parties in a joint Front for the Restoration and Defense of Democracy (FRDD) had threatened to boycott the general elections unless the electoral commission was reinstated.

The commission was dissolved by the government during presidential elections in July which saw General Ibrahim Bare Mainassara, leader of a coup in January, win after being credited with 52 percent of the vote.

Opposition parties contested the result and said they would only take part in the legislative elections if the electoral commission was reinstated, they were given full access to the media and a ban on political demonstrations was lifted.

The government met the last two conditions on Friday, and agreed to negotiations after the mediation of a "council of wise men" headed by a former junta leader, General Ali Saibou.

The council suggested the elections be postponed for a month so that negotiations could take place. (AFP)

Former Kennedy Aide Says Navy Missile Downed TWA 800

CANNES, France — American journalist Pierre Salinger, a former aide of the late U.S. President John Kennedy, on Friday stood by his claims that a missile fired by a U.S. Navy warship accidentally downed TWA flight 800 off New York in July.

But the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in New York, which has been working with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in investigating the July 17 crash, said it had no evidence to indicate the plane explosion was caused by "friendly fire."

A Pentagon spokesman said Thursday there would be no immediate comment on Salinger's claim.

Salinger, Kennedy's former press spokesman and a long-time ABC television correspondent in Europe, told 150 Airline Company officials at the Cannes Airlines Forum that he was making his claim on the strength of a document written by a U.S. secret service agent at a meeting in Paris last month.

"I affirm that this explosion was caused by a missile launched from a U.S. Navy ship which thought the TWA plane was flying much higher," Salinger said.

He said he would show the document to the FBI, but did not show it to journalists here who pressed him for more details of his claim.

On Thursday Salinger said: "The U.S. Navy often carries out missile launching tests, and on that day the TWA plane should have been flying higher. That was what the navy thought but the aircraft was flying lower than planned because above it another plane was beginning a descent to Providence, Rhode Island."

On Friday Salinger said the navy ship had been given wrong information. "The TWA plane should been at 21,000 feet but it was only at 13,000 feet because its take-off had been delayed and there was another plane descending towards Providence Airport." (AFP)

Some 13,000 Refugees Flock Into Tanzania From Eastern Zaire

NAIROBI — A total 13,080 refugees from war-torn eastern Zaire have arrived in Tanzania's northwestern Lake Tanganyika port of Kigoma and many more are pouring in via the lake, a UN World Food Program (WFP) spokeswoman said here on Friday.

Brenda Barton said that by Thursday evening 10,080 refugees had been registered by representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and 3,000 more were still at the Kigoma Port, awaiting registration.

Burundian and Rwandan refugees were being immediately sent to existing refugee camps at Kasulu further inland, while the Zaireans were being accommodated at a makeshift camp in Kigoma.

But due to the congestion at Kigoma camp, the Tanzanian government agreed on Thursday to open the Kigoma Stadium to accommodate the growing numbers of Zaireans, who have fled fighting between Zairean troops and Tutsi rebels in the country's two eastern Kivu regions.

The fighting has already put to flight some 1.2 million Zairean nationals and Burundian and Rwandan refugees living in the region, threatening a major humanitarian catastrophe.

Meanwhile, the WFP has dispatched a team to Kasese in western Uganda to assess the situation on the Ugandan-Zairean border following reports that rebel activities had escalated around the Lake Edward area.

According to WFP, a missionary aid group operating in the region had decided to pullout its personnel from the area as a result of increasing rebel activity in the Ugandan-Zairean border region.

More than 13,500 Zairean refugees have already crossed the border into Uganda to escape the ongoing fighting between Zairean forces and the Tutsi rebels. (AFP)

Death Toll May Reach 2,000

HYDERABAD, India — Flooding rice paddies and villages, ripping power poles from the ground, a fierce cyclone roared through India's southeast coast. The state's top official said the death toll could reach 2,000.

At least 400 residents were killed, another 1,500 people are missing and 10,000 homes were destroyed, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said Thursday after an aerial survey of Andhra Pradesh state.

The fertile rice-growing region was ravaged Wednesday night by winds approaching 100 mph (160 kph).

"Except for houses made of brick and cement, nothing is standing there," Naidu told reporters.

The storm flooded roads and railroad tracks, halting all train traffic and stranding thousands of passengers. Telephone lines were washed out and information from some storm-hit areas was unavailable.

With heavy rain still pounding the region 24 hours later, relief officials said many areas remained out of reach.

"We are trying, but there is no way we can get to the far-off areas right now," said H.S. Brahmma, the state's relief commissioner.

It was the second major storm in three weeks, coming before the battered region had time to recover from widespread storms and flooding that killed 350 people. (AP)

Yeltsin Moved to Kremlin Hospital

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin was transferred Friday from the Chazov Cardiological Center, where he had his heart bypass operation, to the Kremlin's Central Clinical Hospital, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said, quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency.

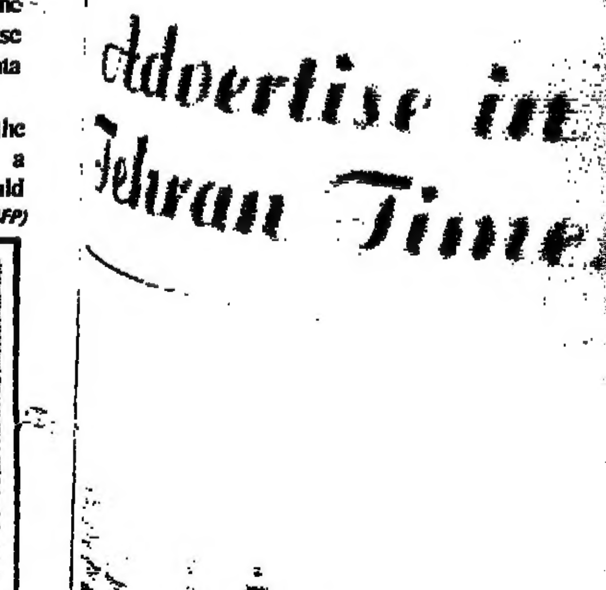
On Thursday, Professor Renat Akchurin, the surgeon who performed the quintuple bypass operation on Tuesday, said Yeltsin was "somewhat ahead of the schedule," and was already walking by his bed and meeting close relatives.

Akchurin added: "I think that in 10 to 12 days after the operation, he will be absolutely able to calmly carry out a large part of his functions — of course under condition of evening and nighttime observation by doctors."

Yeltsin has not appeared on television since the operation, but he issued a written address to the nation on Thursday, calling for unity in the country and saying he was back at work. (AFP)



KAMP-LINTFORT, Germany: (November 6) Miners of the Friedrich-Heinrich mine in Kamp-Lintfort hold torches as they join an evening march of some 1,000 miners to preserve the German Mining Industry. The demonstration is part of a week-long protest action. The march entitled "Without Coal the Lights Will Go Out" was held in the city center, where the usual street-lights were switched off for the event. Union placard in background reads: "Coal Is Our Life - Let Us Live!" (AFP PHOTO)



'South's Economic Improvement Necessary for Sustainable Development'

In order to implement sustainable development globally, developing countries' economic capacity must first be improved, it is stated at a recent international meeting. (Second of two articles on the High-level Round Table on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development, 30 September - 1 October 1996)

By: Third World Network

Geneva: Trade and environment should not be a divisive issue, either between North and South or between econonic and environmental interests and both trade liberalization and environmental protection are necessary to advance sustainable development, a High-level Round-table Ministerial Meeting on Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development concluded recently.

The two-day meeting attended by Ministers, primarily of Environment, and high level officials from 43 countries was co-hosted by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

At the end of the meeting, several developing countries initially resisted the adoption of the 'Agreed Conclusions' which had been drafted by the two secretariats, on the ground that they would have to refer it to their capitals for clearance. Ultimately, they allowed the 'Agreed Conclusions' to be adopted, but expressed reservations to one or the other parts But given the nature of the meeting, it was not at all clear how these 'reservations' would be reflected nor was any explanation immediately available from key developing country participants on the reasons for the 'agreed conclusions'.

In their opening remarks, the co-hosts had expressed warm appreciation about the role of non-governmental organizations, but the invited NGO representatives found they could only attend the opening session and a final meeting. Even more, the arguments among the participants within the round-table meeting on whether there could be an agreed conclusion or only a chairman's summary, delayed the final session for quite a while, and when it began left little time for the NGOs to express their own views.

The round table called on the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), UNEP, UNCTAD, ITC (International Trade Center), the World Trade Organization and other international organizations to continue to pursue closer coordination and co-operation on matters related to environment, trade and sustainable development.

The agreed conclusions said that trade, development and environmental protection should be mutually reinforcing (and) there is complementarity between them.

'Both trade liberalization and environmental protection are necessary to advance sustainable development,' the agreed conclusions said. 'In this context it was noted that eradication and alleviation of poverty has an important role to play in meeting the objectives of sustainable development.'

The round table stressed the important role of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) in addressing global and transboundary environmental problems and said: 'Unilateral actions dealing with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures to address transboundary and global environmental problems should as far as possible be based on international consensus.'

Implementing sustainable development globally, the conclusions said, 'involves as a fundamental requirement improving the economic capacity of developing countries'. Positive measures such as improved market access, capacity-building, improved access to finance, access to and transfer of technology should be promoted to encourage developing countries to participate in the MEAs and provisions in existing MEAs on positive measures should be fully implemented.

The round table noted that trade measures, in certain cases, can play a role in achieving the objectives of MEAs, while safeguarding a non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system; that positive measures should be employed as appropriate to reduce or obviate the necessity for trade measures to secure compliance with MEAs.

The meeting also stressed that use of trade measures should not deter consideration of other options which may be more effective and all measures should uphold principles 7, 11 and the Rio Declaration.

Stressing the need to make greater progress in integrating environment, trade and development policies, the round table said there is a need to examine the relationship between trade principles and environment and development principles.

Emphasizing the importance of confidence-building and mutual respect between the many international institutions interfacing in the trade and environment debate, the agreed conclusions said that dialogue at all levels including national level between the trade and environment sectors should be encouraged.

The agreed conclusions said that progress had been made in understanding the relationship between trade, environment and development in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), as well as UNCTAD, UNEP and the CSD, and stressed the need to maintain the momentum generated through these deliberations.

'Trade liberalization and environmental protection,' the meeting said in its conclusions, 'are both important objectives in promoting sustainable development. However the environmental benefits of trade liberalization are to automatic. They can only be derived if appropriate environmental policies and sustainable development strategies are implemented.'

The link between environmental policies and competitiveness, the participants recognized, is complex. Although so far there was no available evidence to suggest that environmental policy generally has a significant detrimental effect upon competitiveness, further study is required of the potential impacts of environmental policies upon competitiveness and on market access, in particular for developing countries.

The meeting stressed the need for action to increase market access opportunities for developing countries, including by further removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade whilst safeguarding high levels of environmental protection and by promoting effective international cooperation aimed at encouraging trading opportunities for environmentally friendly products.

It also stressed the need for access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, technical and financial assistance, environmental capacity-building and other positive measures to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Participants also noted the importance of private investment flows in facilitating development and transfer of technology, including environmentally sound technologies.

They stressed the need to eliminate or reduce environmentally harmful subsidies and trade-distortive practices with a view to contributing to the achievement of environmental and sustainable development objectives.

The agreed conclusions reiterated the need to assess the environmental impacts of trade policies and agreements.

The meeting also underlined efforts aimed at awareness-building and capacity development undertaken by UNDP, UNCTAD and UNEP and invited Governments in a position to do so to support the UNDP, preferably on a regional basis, with special attention for Africa and the Least Developed Countries.

(Third World Network Features)

South Korea Cracks Down on Sellers of Luxury Goods

SEOUL — South Korean officials are carrying out sweeping tax probes of some 600 people including owners of luxury shops and bars in an effort to clamp down on conspicuous consumption, a spokesman said here Friday.

"Despite the ongoing economic slowdown, conspicous consumption is rampant among sections of the rich," the National Tax Administration (NTA) said in a statement.

"The NTA is carrying out a special tax probe into extravagant restaurants and bars and shops blamed for fanning excessive consumption by dealing in high-priced consumer goods," it said.

An NTA official told AFP the tax investigation started on Tuesday and would continue until the end of this month.

Subjected to the special tax audit are dealers in furs, cosmetics, watches, women's wear, glasses, bags, light fixtures, furniture, kichen ware and golf clubs and owners of luxurious bars and restaurants, the NTA said.

South Korea is faced with a swelling trade deficit. The cumulative trade deficit in the first 10 months of 1996 soared 75 percent from the same period last year to 16.8 billion dollars.

As part of an effort to keep its international payments in balance, South Korea has staged government-led austerity campaigns in the past, triggering protests from trading partners, who charged that the real target is imported goods.

Despite the public statement that the 600 were being probed for dealing in luxuries, NTA officials questioned by foreign journalists changed their tune and said the 600 had been targetted for suspected tax evasion by forging documents. (AFP)



MOSCOW, Russian Federation (Nov.5): Between 37,000 and 500,000 demonstrators gather on Red Square to demand the payment of unpaid salaries. The Moscow demonstration was part of a day of national protest organized by the Federation of Independent Unions across Russia. (AFP PHOTO)





(Archive Photo): A hissing cougar prowls the "Louisiana Swamp", a display designed for indigenous animals. The cat, of Rocky Mountain origins, is a stand-in: A related subspecies that once roamed the Southeast is now endangered and found only in Florida.

(Courtesy National Geography)

Public Phones Bring Second Spring to Shanghai

SHANGHAI -- Autumn is the loveliest season in Shanghai despite the heavy dust which dulls the plane tree leaves, but this year it is also a colorful time -- thanks to the blossoming of thousands of telephone booths.

"This year we designed the phone booths in five colors -- green, blue, orange, transparent and lilac. The purpose is to make a contrast with the natural environment and catch the eyes of users."

Green, blue, orange, lilac, parent booths in pairs vie with the plane trees along the streets of Shanghai, and they are drawing more attention.

The Shanghai Telephone Administration Bureau has invested 120 million yuan ($14.45 million) to install 12,000 public telephone all over the city including 4,000 coin phones which take one yuan (12 cents) for each local call.

"So far 2,000 coin phones have been installed along the streets for use," said Han Yulong, an officer in the bureau's Public Phone Development and Administration Department.

Han said the bureau installed 13,000 public telephones in Shanghai last year but feedback from residents indicated they could not find the telephones because they were located inside factories, shops and residential areas.

"This year we designed the phone booths in five colors -- green, blue, orange, transparent and lilac," Han said. "The purpose is to make a contrast with the natural environment and catch the eyes of users."

Previously, public telephones, marked by obscure overhead signs which only locals know how to locate, were operated by sundry neighborhood shop owners who collect 30 Jiao (10 jiao equals one yuan) for each local call.

Han said the telephone bureau had experimented with card phones in busy Huaihai Road and Nanjing Road and along the waterfront bund but the phones were found to be impractical and of poor quality.

"This year we will set up 4,000 coin phones, 300 to 400 phones for each of the 10 districts," he said.

"Shanghai needs more public phones because if you go by international standards, an international city should have six telephones for every 1,000 people but we have only four for every 1,000 citizens," Han said.

He said the Shanghai Telephone Administration Bureau set up the public phones "not to pursue economic profits, but to return the profits of the bureau to the people and to offer convenience to society."

"The bureau, by all means, is profitable. To give convenience to the people and to upgrade the city is our duty," he added.

Han's concern, it seems, is to ensure that Shanghainese use the phones properly and take good care of the state assets.

A campaign launched last year urging Shanghai's 14 million inhabitants not to spit, litter, jay walk, use foul language, vandalize public property, destroy greenery or smoke in public is still underway.

"We hope the mass media will help us to educate the public or to warn them it is their duty to protect and cherish public facilities. The public takes time to adjust to new things," said Song Dong, an officer with Shanghai Telephone Administration Bureau.

Song said that Shanghai aimed to set up more coin phones, magnetic card phones, and IC card phones in the near future to fill a gap in the provision of such facilities. (AFP)

Drug Lord From Hong Kong Arrested South of Manila

MANILA -- A Hong Kong resident alleged to be a courier for an international drug syndicate was arrested by Philippine police in a resort city south of here, police said recently.

Lucky Ng was arrested late Tuesday by anti-narcotics agents in Tagaytay City. According to Philippine National Police Director-General Recaredo Sarmiento, police found 440 million pesos ($17 million) worth of the illegal drug metamphetamine hydrochloride when they arrested Ng.

The arrest came as drug experts and law enforcers met here to find new ways to combat drug trafficking in Asia, which is becoming one of the world's largest sources of heroin and other illegal drugs.

Sarmiento said Ng, considered one of Philippines' biggest drug lords, was connected to Taiwan and China-based Drug syndicates using Manila as a transshipment point.

Ng was presented to reporters on Wednesday and denied the allegations.

He faces a death sentence if found guilty of charges of drug possession. (AFP)

Work Stolen by Nazis to Be Returned

PARIS -- French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette was to officially hand over on Wednesday a work of art to the heirs of a family despoiled by the Nazis during World War II.

The pastel drawing, "Les Glaneuses" (The Gleaners), by the French naturalist painter Leon Lhermitte, will be returned to the Carvailho family, heirs of the Levi de Benzion family.

The Foreign Ministry said the work was returned by Germany after negotiations in the Franco-German working group on cultural property in June 1994 along with 28 other paintings and drawings found in Berlin and which had been stolen from private persons in France.

The works were put on display in Paris, permitting immediate identification of seven of their owners. But tracing the Carvailho family took longer.

Leon Lhermite (1844-1925) made his reputation from painting scenes from rural life. (AFP)

Seven Slain for Alleged Witchcraft

MEXICO CITY -- Three men bludgeoned to death a family of seven with machetes, finishing the off with gunshots, for allegedly conjuring up the witchcraft killings of two young girls, press reports said recently.

Authorities nabbed the three in Duraznotla after murdering four adults and three children of the Quiahua family. A 15-year-old girl was the only family member to survive, by pretending she was dead.

One of the men detained, Florencio Chipahua, told authorities his two daughters Zelerina and Zeferina were slain by a spell cast by the Quiahua family, and that he was out to avenge their alleged killings. (AFP)

After Milk-Thirsty Hindu Gods, It's Now a Miracle Tree

NEW DELHI -- A leafy tree in a fruit orchard in the Indian capital is drawing droves of Hindus due to its supposedly miraculous powers to heal and even talk.

"If you ask me, it's nothing but a sham. We think it is a trick to grab this piece of land. If they can build a temple around the tree, who can prevent them?"

The tree "miracle" comes barely a year after rumors gripped New Delhi, much of India and the Indian diaspora, that Hindu gods were drinking milk. That attracted thousands to temples with cans of milk to feed the thirsty gods. Anti-superstition activists offered scientific explanations for the milk-lapping phenomenon and the affair died out in time.

Ever since word spread of the 20-year-old tree last month, some 2,000 men and women have been flocking to the orchard in the residential district of Shalimar Bagh daily to pray or merely to look.

Many bring marigolds and incense sticks that are stuck on the tree trunk or littered at its feet. A few water its bark and even prostrate themselves before the tree, whose botanical name is madhuca indica.

"Both my sister-in-law and grandmother suffered from perennial swelling in their legs. They came and prayed and their problems are now over."

Others fold their hands and mutter silent prayers with their eyes closed.

"Both my sister-in-law and grandmother suffered from perennial swelling in their legs," said Charan Singh, a 26-year-old man, at the site. "They came and prayed and their problems are now over."

An elderly woman, Kamla, claimed a mute 16-year-old girl regained her speech after her mother brought her to the tree.

"I heard about the miracle from neighbors," said Rakesh Kumar, a scooter-taxi driver who had come to pray. "I feel at peace after coming here."

A young mute woman seated on the ground facing the tree was being coaxed by her family to utter a few words. A crowd stood by watching.

Four policemen and a woman constable keep vigil nearby. The 30-foot (nine-meter) high, otherwise ordinary-looking tree is surrounded by a string of fruit trees in the vast orchard.

The tree hit the limelight on October 18, but hardly anyone is clear just how.

A woman said it all began when a woodcutter tried to cut it down.

"A mysterious voice from the tree suddenly asked him to stop," the woman told AFP. "When he nevertheless hit it with the axe, blood started to gush out from the tree.

"Since then people have been pouring in here to pray," she said. "If we Hindus can worship stones, idols, why not a tree?"

A caretaker at the orchard, Ram Bakht, had a different story.

"Nobody really knows what happened," he said, wielding a thick cane to regulate the crowds. "I am told three women came to the tree on October 18 and one began to roll on the ground screaming it was a holy tree.

"That was it. Since then, there has been no respite.

"Now at least 2,000 people come every day. People come from long distances. In cars, scooters, buses. People are simply mad.

"Nobody has heard the tree talk and yet everyone believes it can talk. How can a tree talk? We just don't know what to do."

The harried policemen resting on a cot nearby shared his anguish.

"If you ask me, it's nothing but a sham," said head constable Ram Mohar. "We think it is a trick to grab this piece of land. If they can build a temple around the tree, who can prevent them?"

The state-owned Delhi Development Authority, which owns the orchard, has filed a case of trespass with the police in a bid to stop the intrusion by Hindus. But the police are in no mood to act.

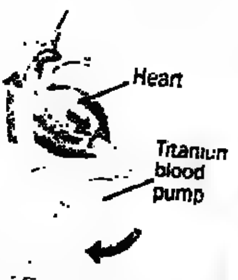
In desperation, the authority sealed off the only entrance to the ground with barbed wires. But people broke a part of the boundary wall to create a new opening. (AFP)



FILE PHOTO: Not ready for a llama's love, the boy spurns a nose-to-nose kiss in Palo Cedro. Veterinarian Betsy Adamson, at center, finds the gentle camelids helpful in teaching Redding area students about animal life. Local breeder Pat McCarthy, who sells llamas as pack animals and wool producers, says they're also soothing to adults. "Sometimes people come over when they're having a bad day," she says, "just to walk among my llamas and relax."

(Courtesy National Geographic)





Study: No Clear Evidence of Health Effects From Electric Fields

WASHINGTON - Despite more than 17 years of research and hundreds of studies, scientists still have no clear and convincing evidence that exposure in the home to electric and magnetic fields causes any human disease, a scientific panel reported Thursday.

A committee of the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences, said in a report it could find no proof that electromagnetic fields common in households caused cancer, or affected human health.

A weak correlation was found between a rare childhood leukemia and some types of outside electrical wiring, the report said. However, it noted that experiments attempting to confirm the correlation "have been inconsistent and contradictory and do not constitute reliable evidence."

The report said the childhood leukemia may be related to other factors common to homes built near power lines.

The 16-member committee of experts issued the report after evaluating more than 500 studies.

Electromagnetic fields have been a human health concern since 1979 when researchers in England linked childhood leukemia to the proximity of high-voltage power lines, a finding that remains controversial.

Some researchers found a greater incidence of cancer among electrical workers who are commonly exposed to energy fields created by high voltage power transmission. Other studies, however, have not found such a link.

Concern about the issue prompted scientists in Finland to survey their entire country to check on the incidence of cancer among people living within 500 yards (450 meters) of high-voltage lines. The study found no connection between adult cancer and the low-level magnetic fields caused by power lines.

A study by the American Physical Society found that magnetic fields caused by power lines near homes would be far weaker than the natural magnetic field of the earth and, thus, pose no hazard.

Despite the uncertainty of the studies, citizen action in some communities have forced utility companies to move power lines or to install shielding. A number of electrical workers and homeowners have filed lawsuits against power companies, claiming illnesses caused by exposure to the energy fields.

But the National Research Council said there is no laboratory or convincing epidemiological evidence linking electromagnetic fields to cancer, reproductive or developmental abnormalities, learning difficulties or behavioral problems.

"The findings to date do not support claims that electromagnetic fields are harmful to a person's health," said Charles F. Stevens, the committee chairman and a professor at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California.

"Research has not shown any convincing way that electromagnetic fields common in houses can cause health problems, and extensive laboratory tests have not shown that EMFs can damage the cell in a way that is harmful to human health," said Stevens.

Despite its prestigious source, the report is certain not to be the final answer.

Congress ordered a five-year, $65 million study by four government laboratories to test whether electromagnetic fields harm nerve cells, trigger breast cancer cells or affect other biological processes. A report of that study is expected next year.

(AP)

A Plague on All Our Houses

"Malaria became a human disease only after the development of agriculture. Before that, there weren't enough people to sustain it. You need a few hundred thousand people to sustain measles. We don't know what other diseases may require several million people.

Giant cities are growing in developing nations now." Because of overcrowding, poor sanitation, and lack of medical care, such cities may be the seed bed for future epidemics. Ebola virus among the 600,000 people of the major city Kikwit, in Zaire, is a frightening example.

A large part of the problem, says biologist Richard Young of the White head Institute, is that we're still unjustifiably complacent about the dangers of infectious diseases. Also, knowledge is scarce. For example, he says, "we still don't understand today what makes a vaccine work or not. What principles can we use to generate new vaccines? Our predictive powers are poor, because we don't really know what the interplay is between the host and disease that results in successful protection."

Nonetheless, Young says, if vaccines can be developed they are probably the most cost-effective way to deal with major diseases. In the absence of vaccines, hygiene and education are often the only weapons.

Malaria became a human disease only after the development in agriculture.

Among the viruses, Levins says, the ability to pass genes around like so much loose change underlies the constant threat of new epidemics. And humans increase the danger because of agricultural, industrial, and social practices. Strange combinations of viruses end up producing hybrids that can outwit their hosts' immune defenses and sometimes expand the range of hosts.

This is apparently what happens when new strains of flu spread worldwide from China, where farmers raise pigs and ducks together. An avian flu virus from ducks infects pigs, and inside the pig cells the flu virus swaps genes with mammalian viruses.

The result is constant rearrangement of the flu virus' genes, creating new strains of influenza that eventually infect the farmers. New vaccines to combat the new strains then have to be designed and distributed.

Levins, who argues that "poverty is the biggest threat in the world today," also warns that in the struggle to understand and fight infectious diseases, "science is too fragmented," hampered by artificial barriers and lack of communication. "Epidemiologists don't talk to plant pathologists, the psychological and physiological realms are treated separately, and medical education ignores ecology, evolution, and genetics."

As a result, the dangers and the reasons for worry are real and getting worse. "New health problems are threatening," Levins warns, "and our science isn't up to meeting them."

(Courtesy Popular Science Jan.96)

(Concluded)

Anti-Smoking Campaign Intensified in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia is to extend its ban on smoking to more public places next month, health minister Chua Jui Meng said in remarks published recently, revealing that one in every five Malaysians aged 15 and above smoked.

Chua said 11 more areas will be gazetted as no-smoking zones to protect non-smokers who risked contracting various diseases after inhaling cigarette smoke.

Offenders will be fined up to $2,000 (5,000 ringgit) or jailed for two years, Chua was reported as saying by the New Straits Times English-language daily.

The ban will now cover banks and financial institutions, sport complexes including closed and open stadiums, shopping complexes, air-conditioned restaurants and government offices.

The ban also extended to transport terminals, airports, public halls, schools, institutions of higher learning and service counters of state-owned Tenaga Nasional BHD., Telekom Malaysia BHD. and post offices.

Chua said the government will allow designated smoking areas in airports to cater to hard-core foreign smokers but airport authorities would have to apply to the ministry for the smoking zones.

"We also invite corporations or institutions not included in this list but want to be gazetted to seek approval to declare their premises as cigarette smoke-free zone," Chua said.

The government had since May 1994 banned smoking in hospitals and clinics, public lifts, vehicles, amusement centers and theaters and petrol stations and one-half of air-conditioned eating places.

Chua said 1,447 officers from the ministry and local authorities throughout the country would be mobilized to enforce the regulations.

He said smoking was a serious problem in Malaysia, as a recent government survey revealed there were 1.7 million smokers in peninsular Malaysia alone.

"This means one in every five people aged 15 and above are smokers. Malays make up the largest group accounting for 24 percent, followed by Chinese 18 percent and Indians 15 percent," he added.

Smoking was strongly linked to cardiovascular diseases, strokes and cancer, which accounted for 25 percent of deaths in the country, Chua said.

(AFP)



Thought

Allah said to Jesus, peace be with him: O Jesus! Your tongue must be a single tongue in secret and in public, and likewise your heart. Verily, I warn you of your self, and I suffice as the Allah-aware [Qoran 17:17- 25:58].It is not proper for there to be two tongues in a single mouth, nor two swords in a single scabbard, nor two hearts in a single breast, and likewise two minds.

PRAYER

Noon..........................11:48
Evening.......................17:21
Dawn (tomorrow)..............5:2
Sunrise (tomorrow)...........6:37

TODAY IN HISTORY

1681 - Diet of Oldenburg grants Hungarian protestants religious tolerance

1882 - Franco-British dual control of Egypt is established.

1923 - Fourteen Nazis are killed as federal troops break up march of Adolf Hitler's storm troopers in Munich, Germany.

1962 - United States completes emergency airlift of arms and ammunition to India in that nation's border war with China.

1963 - Coal mine explosion at Umuta, Japan, kills 452 miners and injures 450 others.

1971 - Chinese communists make their first appearance in United Nations for conference on problems facing main delegation on its way from Peking.

1975 - Morocco's King Hassan calls off people's march into Spanish Sahara and says takeover of desert territory must be accomplished by other means.

1977 - Israeli fighter-bombers attack targets in southern Lebanon, and Lebanese government says two villages are levelled with at least 60 civilians martyred.

1982 - Western sources say up to 2,700 civilians and Soviet soldiers in a convoy perished after fiery collision in Afghanistan mountain tunnel jammed with buses and trucks.

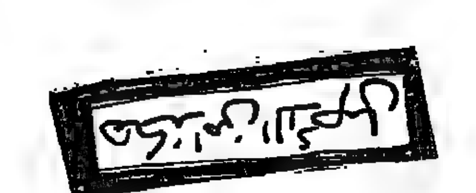
1987 - Bomb explodes during rush hour in crowded neighborhood of Colombo, Sri Lanka, with at least 32 people killed and 105 wounded.

1989 - East Germany opens its borders. Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping says he will resign all official posts.

1990 - 15 blacks stabbed to death and four wounded in factional fight in South African eastern province of Natal.

1991 - Shifting positions, Serbia urges UN to send peacekeeping troops to Croatia.

1993 - Flush from a parliamentary election victory, King Hussein says Jordan will forge ahead in negotiating peace with Israel.



INTERNATIONAL TENDER
NO. F/IKIA/75/FIDS/3
FLIGHT INFORMATION DISPLAY SYSTEM FOR IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT (IKIA)

IKIA INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE SUBJECT OF THIS TENDER THROUGH INTERNATIONALLY WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURERS OF FIDS.

SUBJECT OF THE TENDER:

— DESIGNING, SUPPLYING, MANUFACTURING, PERFORMING REQUIRED TESTS, EXPORT PACKING, TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF FLIGHT INFORMATION DISPLAY SYSTEM AND ACCESSORIES AND SPECIAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THEIR ERECTION AS WELL AS SPARE PARTS FOR TWO YEARS OPERATION. POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS MAY COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM 9:00 A.M. (TEHRAN TIME) NOV. 23, 1996 TILL 2:00 P.M. DEC. 1, 1996 BY PRESENTING:

* AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MAIN SUPPLIER (TENDERER) INTRODUCING REPRESENTATIVE, AGENT AND/OR A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM IKIA PROJECT OFFICE IN TEHRAN UPON RECEIPT.

* ORIGINAL BANK RECEIPT OF RLS. 200,000, NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT TO IKIA'S ACCOUNT NO. 91400 AT "BANK SADERAT IRAN", ESTEGHLAL BRANCH, TEHRAN, FOR THE COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS.

PLEASE NOTE:

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— IKIA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL OF THE TENDERS WITHOUT BEARING ANY RESPONSIBILITY.

— PARTICIPATION IN THE TENDER REQUIRES A BANK GUARANTEE OF RLS. 150,000,000 FOR LOCAL COMPANIES AND U.S.$ 50,000 FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES OBTAINED FROM AN IRANIAN BANK AS DESCRIBED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS.

— CLOSING DATE OF THE TENDER WILL BE 10:00 A.M. JAN. 4,1997.

— COMPANIES OFFERING FINANCE FACILITIES WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN EVALUATION.

— ALL TENDER EXPENSES WILL BE BURDENED BY THE WINNER.

IKIA PROJECT OFFICE:

NO. 25, SHAHEED KALANTARI ST., GHARANI AVE., TEHRAN 15988, I.R. OF IRAN.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDERER RECOGNITION FOR THE SUPPLY OF AIRPORT SECURITY SYSTEM
NO. F/IKIA/75/AS/6
IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT (IKIA)

ACCORDING TO ART. 3 OF CLAUSE "V" UNDER NOTE 29 OF THE YEAR 1375 (1996-7) BUDGET PLAN LAW, IKIA INTENDS TO INVITE SUPPLIERS OF AIRPORT SECURITY SYSTEMS.

THE COMPETENT SUPPLIERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO DESIGN, MANUFACTURE/SUPPLY, INSTALL AND OPERATE THE SECURITY SYSTEM, ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT RELEVANT DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE (FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATION OF CAPABILITIES) AS MENTIONED HEREUNDER NO LATER THAN 2:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY DEC. 4, 1996 BY PRESENTING RECEIPT OF 100,000 RIALS (TEN THOUSAND TOMANS) TO THE ACC. NO. 91400 WITH BANK SADERAT IRAN, ESTEGHLAL BRANCH (NON-REFUNDABLE) AND INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO IKIA PROJECT OFFICE AT:

NO. 25, SHAHID KALANTARY ST., GHARANI AVE., TEHRAN 15988 - IRAN UPON RECEIPT.

AFTER EVALUATION OF PRESENTED DOCUMENTS, ONLY QUALIFIED SUPPLIERS CONFIRMED BY AUTHORITIES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED LIMITED TENDER.

REQUIRED INITIAL INFORMATION ARE:

1. FULL NAME, ADDRESS, REGISTRATION/LEGALIZATION EVIDENCE, ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (PARTICIPANT) AS WELL AS OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENT PROVING CREDENTIAL AND FINANCIAL ABILITIES.
2. SCHEDULE OF SUB-SUPPLIERS/CONTRACTORS, SISTER OR GROUP COMPANIES INTENDED BY THE TENDERER TO COOPERATE IN FULFILLMENT OF THE SUBJECT OF TENDER, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVE IN IRAN, IF ANY.
3. DESCRIPTION AND CERTIFICATE AND/OR EVIDENCE OF FULFILLMENT OF THE SAME PROJECT IN OTHER SIMILAR PLACES.
4. ANY CONFIRMATION OR PROOF OF QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IN TERMS OF CAPABILITY, WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED FROM RELEVANT INDUSTRIAL AND/OR SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS.
5. ANY ADDITIONAL AND SIMILAR INFORMATION.
6. COMPANIES OFFERING FINANCING FACILITIES WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN EVALUATION.
7. ALL EXPENSES WILL BE BURDENED BY THE WINNER.

IKIA WILL INFORM SELECTED COMPANIES TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENTS NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ABOVE INFORMATION.

IKIA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL TENDERS AT ANY TIME.

SUBMISSION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION WILL BE ASSUMED AS ACCEPTANCE OF RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF IKIA.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER
NO.F/IKIA/75/AB/4
PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE FOR IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT (IKIA)

IKIA INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE SUBJECT OF THIS TENDER THROUGH INTERNATIONALLY WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURERS OF PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE.

SUBJECT OF THE TENDER:

— DESIGNING, SUPPLYING, MANUFACTURING, PERFORMING REQUIRED TESTS, EXPORT PACKING, TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF PASSENGER BOARDING BRIDGE SYSTEM AND ACCESSORIES AND SPECIAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THEIR ERECTION AS WELL AS SPARE PARTS FOR TWO YEARS OPERATION. POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS MAY COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM 9:00 A.M. (TEHRAN TIME) NOV. 23, 1996 TILL 2:00 P.M. DEC. 1, 1996 BY PRESENTING:

* AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MAIN SUPPLIER (TENDERER) INTRODUCING REPRESENTATIVE, AGENT AND/OR A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM IKIA PROJECT OFFICE IN TEHRAN UPON RECEIPT.

* ORIGINAL BANK RECEIPT OF RLS. 200,000, NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT TO IKIA'S ACCOUNT NO. 91400 AT "BANK SADERAT IRAN", ESTEGHLAL BRANCH, TEHRAN, FOR THE COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS.

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— CLOSING DATE OF THE TENDER WILL BE 11:00 A.M. JAN. 4, 1997.

—COMPANIES OFFERING FINANCE FACILITIES WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN EVALUATION.

— ALL TENDER EXPENSES WILL BE BURDENED BY THE WINNER.

IKIA PROJECT OFFICE:

NO. 25, SHAHEED KALANTARI ST., GHARANI AVE., TEHRAN 15988.
I.R. OF IRAN.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER
NO. F/IKIA/75/B.H/5
BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT (IKIA)

IKIA INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE SUBJECT OF THIS TENDER THROUGH INTERNATIONALLY WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURERS OF BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM.

SUBJECT OF THE TENDER:

— DESIGNING, SUPPLYING, MANUFACTURING, PERFORMING REQUIRED TESTS, EXPORT PACKING, TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM AND ACCESSORIES AND SPECIAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THEIR ERECTION AS WELL AS SPARE PARTS FOR TWO YEARS OPERATION. POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS MAY COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM 9:00 A.M. (TEHRAN TIME) NOV. 23, 1996 TILL 2:00 P.M. DEC. 1, 1996 BY PRESENTING:

* AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MAIN SUPPLIER (TENDERER) INTRODUCING REPRESENTATIVE, AGENT AND/OR A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM IKIA PROJECT OFFICE IN TEHRAN UPON RECEIPT.

* ORIGINAL BANK RECEIPT OF RLS. 200,000, NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT TO IKIA'S ACCOUNT NO. 91400 AT "BANK SADERAT IRAN", ESTEGHLAL BRANCH, TEHRAN, FOR THE COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS.

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— PARTICIPATION IN THE TENDER REQUIRES A BANK GUARANTEE OF RLS. 150,000,000 FOR LOCAL COMPANIES AND U.S.$ 50,000 FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES OBTAINED FROM AN IRANIAN BANK AS DESCRIBED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS.

— CLOSING DATE OF THE TENDER WILL BE 12:00 NOON JAN. 4, 1997.

—COMPANIES OFFERING FINANCE FACILITIES WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN EVALUATION.

— ALL TENDER EXPENSES WILL BE BURDENED BY THE WINNER.

IKIA PROJECT OFFICE:

NO. 25, SHAHEED KALANTARI ST., GHARANI AVE., TEHRAN 15988, I.R. OF IRAN.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER
NO. F/IKIA/75/SS/2
230/20 KV SUBSTATION FOR IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT (IKIA)

IKIA INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE SUBJECT OF THIS TENDER THROUGH INTERNATIONALLY WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURERS OF SUBSTATION.

SUBJECT OF THE TENDER

* DESIGN, SUPPLY, MANUFACTURE, PERFORMING REQUIRED TESTS, EXPORT PACKING, TRANSPORTATION AND DELIVERY OF 230/20 KV SUBSTATION SYSTEM AND ACCESSORIES AND SPECIAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THEIR ERECTION AS WELL AS SPARE PARTS FOR FIVE YEARS OPERATION. POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS MAY COLLECT THE TENDER DOCUMENTS FROM 9:00 A.M. (TEHRAN TIME) NOV. 9, 1996 TILL 2:00 P.M. NOV. 18, 1996 BY PRESENTING:

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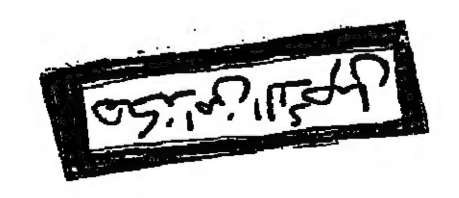
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* CLOSING DATE OF THE TENDER WILL BE 2:00 P.M. DEC. 22, 1996.

* COMPANIES OFFERING FINANCE FACILITIES WILL RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN EVALUATION.

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Encounters at Ground Zero

One lightning bolt and one 65-foot sycamore tree make a convincing argument against taking refuge under branches during a thunderstorm. Considered by experts one of the best pictures ever made of a lightning strike, the image at right was taken in 1984 by Johnny Autery of Dixons Mills, Alabama, from his pickup truck.

A remarkable detail in the photograph is a pair of upward discharges: one from a top the sycamore to the left of the main bolt and the other reaching from the television antenna of the farmhouse at left. Such discharges occur only in the area of a downward stroke.

"That little bolt took out one of the family's TV sets," reports Autery. "I guess if the big one had hit there, a lot worse would've happened."





Most trees survive direct hits with little damage as the current passes over their surface to the ground. After a decade, this sycamore still stands.

Golfers are prime targets for lightning — they tend to either stand in open grassy areas or huddle under trees. A scored pattern on the fifth green at Phalen Park Golf Course in St. Paul, Minnesota (extreme left), defined ground zero where four golfers were injured — one fatally — by a June 1991 strike.

When lightning tunnels into sand soil, the heat often fuses it into the shape of the electricity's path. Called fulgurites after the Latin word for lightning, the formations can measure longer than 15 feet.

This sample, from the Arozina-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, was dug up by a witness who saw lightning strike the ground in Arizona's Avra Valley.

(Courtesy National Geography)

Deformed Frogs Spread Alarm Across U.S. Midwest

CHICAGO — A sharp increase in deformed frogs — some with missing or extra legs or missing eyes — is alarming Midwesterners and baffling scientists, who say a threat to human health cannot be ruled out.

Just as coal miners used canaries to alert them to poisonous gases in the mines, frogs may alert U.S. to problems in the environment.

"Does it mean that human health could be at risk? Yes, it is a possibility, although there's no evidence so far," said Mark Gernes, a Wetlands biologist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in St. Paul.

"It depends on what is causing the deformities. At this point we don't know ... it's something we should be concerned about," he told AFP.

Large numbers of deformed frogs were first discovered in a Wetland in Minnesota's Lesueur County by schoolchildren in August 1995.

The deformities included multiple or missing legs and feet, missing or oddly formed eyes, with a preponderance of deformities affecting the hind legs, Gernes said.

One one-eyed frog was found with a second eye growing inside its throat.

Since last year. Minnesota scientists working on the mystery have received 164 reports of frog deformities, including some from South Dakota, Wisconsin, Quebec, Missouri and even California, Gernes said.

Cases have also been reported recently in Denmark and Japan.

Historical data show similar but extremely rare occurrences in the past, the biologist noted.

Frogs, with their permeable skins and a life cycle that is both aquatic and land-based, are key indicators of the environment's health, scientists say.

Just as coal miners used canaries to alert them to poisonous gases in the mines, frogs may alert U.S. to problems in the environment.

Gernes said the scientific community is skeptical of a report by California biologist Charles Dailey blaming the frog deformities on snake parasites.

The parasites would have jumped from a first host, the snake, to infect another host, the tadpole.

"Some of the deformed frogs we've seen have parasites, but others don't ... these parasites have always been around, and if they were the primary cause, we would expect a more frequent occurrence of these kinds of deformities in the frog population," Gernes said.

He added that two Minnesota University scientists — David Hoppe and Robert McKinnell — had studied 20,000 frogs and until last year had not seen any gross deformations.

Some researchers speculate that the decline may be caused by toxic heavy metals and pesticides building up in aquatic food chains, coupled with serious air pollution.

The mystery was discussed at a meeting of experts last month sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Duluth, Minnesota.

Joe Tietge, a research biologist at EPA, told AFP that a summary of the discussions at the Duluth meeting would be published November 14.

Minnesota scientists have been collecting deformed frogs for tissue analysis and have been sampling the Wetland mud and water for abnormal levels of metals such as arsenic, mercury, selenium and cadmium.

They are also looking at chemicals and pesticides as potential causes.

The appearance of the deformities coincides with reports of a worldwide decline in populations of frogs, toads and salamanders. Some species have disappeared and others are no longer where they used to be, scientists say.

Some researchers speculate that the decline may be caused by toxic heavy metals and pesticides building up in aquatic food chains, coupled with serious air pollution. (AFP)

Destination Mars for Three New Space Probes

PARIS — The planet Mars, a 10-month journey away for a new U.S. space probe which set out last Wednesday, has fascinated mankind since time immemorial.

Its reddish coloration reminded the Babylonian astronomers of antiquity of blood, so they dedicated the planet to Nergal, their god of pestilence and death. The Greeks and the Romans long afterwards named it after their gods of war, Ares and Mars respectively.

Stargazers caused a stir last century by raising the possibility of life on the surface of Mars, and some even speculated it hosted an advanced civilization.

Interest surged anew a few months ago when the U.S. space agency NASA said scrutiny of a Martian meteorite discovered in the Antarctic disclosed traces tending to suggest a primitive form of microscopic life on Mars.

The question of the existence of other living creatures in the universe is a complete mystery. That is still true of Mars, despite the data acquired in 30 years of exploration. No-one can affirm there has never been life there, nor can the contrary be asserted.

In a fresh bid to clarify matters and improve on the findings of the previous 19 Russian or U.S. missions which began in the early 1960s, three new probes are due to set off in the coming month.

The first is Mars global surveyor which took off from Cape Canaveral in Florida on Wednesday. It is to be followed on November 16 by Mars-96, a Russian venture carrying international scientific instruments due to blast off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

A second U.S. probe, Mars Pathfinder, is scheduled for a December 2 lift-off from Cape Canaveral. The probes have map-making systems and descent modules to locate landing sites for the first manned space trips to Mars, tentatively pencilled in for 2015-2018.

They will plot the Martian magnetic field, find out if there is water in the sub-soil or deeper, study the planet's powerful past volcanic activity, and attempt to understand what causes the enormous storms wracking the surface from time to time.

Mars is smaller than earth, with a diameter of 6,794 kilometers (4,212 miles), about half the length of earth's. It orbits the sun at a mean distance of 228 million kilometers (141 million miles) compared with earth's 149.6 million kilometers (93 million miles).

A Martian year lasts 688 days, though the planet's day is very close to earth's at 24 hours 37 minutes. The inclination to the plane of the orbit is also very similar, at 24 degrees to earth's 23.26 degrees, giving Mars distinct seasons like ours. (AFP)

Migrants Are Driven by Poverty

ontrary to popular belief, says the writer, igrants are not drawn to cities by the bright lights, sy pickings or soft living. Instead, they are driven om their home-places by poverty, hunger, nvironmental degradation, developmental iolence, evictions, debt, etc.



igrants are characterisuc figures in the epic drama of lobalization; people who have fled home-place which, for one reason another, can no longer sustain em. Sometimes, it seems all hu-anity has been set in movement, a stless one-way journeying across e world, away from rootedness. vay from sufficiency, away from entity; an irreversible global tran-umance.

Migrants are present in every ountry, with their archaic country anners, their peasant origins, eir unadapted responses: from e ruined forests and vast planta-ons of monoculture, they come to ve in cellars and basements in ao Paulo and Nova Iguacu, oms that never see sunlight and with stagnant water when it ins. Faces from the High Andes rmount sandwich boards like aying cards, advertising the rvices of pawnbrokers or mon-lenders on the streets of Lima d Santiago. They arrive at bus ations after journeys of 36 hours battered antique buses: and ere, they recognize faces of their untrymen, people who promise em a lodging or a job, and who en sometimes disappear with eir money or suitcase.

A couple sit on an abandoned fa in the center of Manila, the an in trousers tied up with string d baseball cap, the woman in a nk quilted nylon dressing-gown, their faces, the mental confu-on of the uprooted.

Migrants live in boxes under concrete motorways of Ameri-n cities; they stand on the rail-y termini of Europe, beside a rdboard case or tin trunk, hug-ng shabby coats against an unfa-liar climate, holding a precious p of paper with a scribbled con-t in the poor parts of Vienna or ankfurt, where the trams rattle er the cobblestones, past the ements which look as though y have been preserved espe-lly as punishment barracks for nsients. They lodge in rooms ar the station in Rome, six beds a single room, with the belong-s under the lumpy mattress, the al smell of lone men, unshaven ns, badly nourished from make-shift meals, and the thin consolation of porn magazines and remittances home. They dress in plastic coats and canvas shoes, out of a rag-bag of reach-me-downs standing on the edge of a world in which they will never belong: although their children may.

They can be seen in the marble fortresses of Jeddah and Doha. Filipino faces. Vietnamese. Sri Lankans, a smudge behind the security grilles of Knightsbridge and the Parc Monceau. Sometimes captive, they become clandestine labor, sleeping in the warmth of restaurant kitchens with the cockroaches and mice. They rattle their pails and mops in the wintry northern dawn, cleaning expanses of rubberized flooring, marble and glass.

Sometimes, their long, heroic and dangerous journeys have ended in marginal, dispensable labor servicing the rich; and they must put away their certificates and degrees and forget what they know, and learn to be part of a swelling underclass. Their wallets contain letters falling apart at the folds where they have been read and reread, the photographs of children they have not yet seen; the promises to join them, the story of difficulties in getting a visa, the fears that they no longer remember those from whom they are separated.

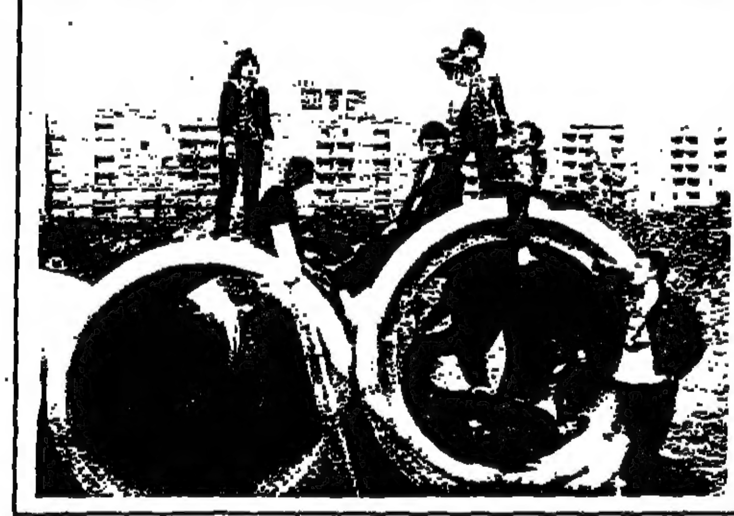
They must practice a kindly duplicity by telling of their success in the city, in the metropolis, in the West. The money must be sent home. They must conceal the aching loneliness, the humiliations, the degrading work that bears no relation to skills; and even less to the experience of padi-field or shamba, vegetable garden or wheatfield. The greasy factory floor, the sweat-shop with its cotton dust, the long hours smiling and serving the strangers who look through them, the smarting eyes on the assembly line, the pink coveralls and hair-nets, the production of chocolate biscuits, soft toys or candies which their own children could never afford to buy — this has a powerful conscientizing effect upon them, although there is nothing to do with it, this awareness that no one wants, and that serves no purpose. They find no echo in the culture of their critical understanding of the society into which they have, arbitrarily, arrived.

They have come to stay with distant and sometimes grudging kinspeople; to occupy cupboards and landings at the top of mansion blocks, or to squat in derelict burnt-out properties left to the wild drug-takers and nomadic highway people of the inner cities. They have come to be insulted, and to learn the nod-and-wink semaphores of racism, to read into an inflexion and a glance a world of exclusion and contempt. They have arrived in places where violence, random physical attacks, knifings and robberies occur daily. And they say, always, no matter what the horrors of the social life into which they have been plunged, that it is better than where they came from.

It is better, not because they hate their home-place, not because they come from primitive or backward villages. It is that the countryside, the global agricultural hinterland has to provide for the expanding city areas; because the urban population must be fed and provided for, and has first claim on the products of the earth.

An intensifying pressure to export more means there is less and less for those who used to be self-reliant and self-provisioning, who used to live with dignified sufficiency. They must either be content with what is left over, a declining proportion of what they grow and produce, or they must leave. This is why the people of the world are on the move. They are following the source of their own dispossession; in turn placing even greater demands for a surplus from the depleted countryside.

The men have come first, into cities whose populations become demographically unbalanced. This generates a sex industry, the pornographic cinemas, the prostitutes, the magazines: with guilt and shame they remember their absent wife, as they pass over some of the money that should have been sent home, and which pays instead for the desperate moment of release from loneliness and the stress of being divided.



There are other shamings, too, the forgetting of skills, like the weavers from Orissa and Bihar become rickshaw drivers or cart-pullers in Nagpur or Delhi, whose fingers still ache with the desire to make the finest fabrics and the most delicate materials, or the agricultural worker, burdened with a knowledge of how to find fodder, food and building material from trees that she will never again see. Above all, they must adapt to the indifference of the city, the numbing invisibility, a life among perpetual strangers

The pathos of the migrant comes perhaps from what is subjectively, an epic journey, even though the object at the end of it may be demeaning labor, a temporary sojourn, criminalization, deportation. The migrant doesn't come drawn by bright lights, easy pickings or soft living. These are the myths of those served by migrants, to allay their own ambiguous feelings. They are driven. They are driven by poverty, hunger, environmental degradation, developmental violence, enclosures, evictions, debt, bondage and the inability to provide the basic necessities for themselves and their families. The measure of the reluctance of their departure lies in the persistence of the dream of the return, although over time, they become anchored, usually through their children, in the place of exile: the children who have never known any other life, and who have become estranged from a home-place which is not theirs.

A new category of migrants has recently been invented, to whom sympathy may not be extended. These are economic migrants, and are said to be merely seeking to improve the quality of their life. They must be sent back without delay. The distinction between them, however, and refugees — people displaced by civil war, oppression or drought — is increasingly difficult to sustain. It is clear that the search for a better life — which is, in theory, the basic purpose of industrial society — is not admissible when it means the dispossessed gather at the frontiers of Europe and America, those conspicuous beneficiaries of their impoverishment.

Politicians, economists and executives of transnational companies speak now of 'a single global economy', 'an integrated world market', but they then disclaim any responsibility for the consequences of their own creation. The world economy is controlled and dominated by the West, to such a degree that currently, 70 countries are implementing 'structural adjustment programs' under the stern superintendence of Western financial institutions and governments.

These programs do not vary. Irrespective of the country upon which they are imposed, with often only the scantest regard for the local conditions, the prescriptions are to liberalize, to open up markets, to export more in order to earn foreign exchange and to service debts, to cut government spending, to privatize. All this is offered with a promise that, if carried out faithfully, it will lead to the riches which the West conspicuously enjoys.

What is absent from this analysis is that the West had access to the whole in the interests of amassing its present wealth. Such a program of forcible appropriation is no longer possible. As a result, each country following the Western way of wealth must place increasing pressure on its own resource base, on its own poor; especially upon those who occupy the forests, fishing grounds and farmlands that have not been absorbed by industrialized agriculture. The Western prescriptions lead to ecological ruin, resource depletion, evictions and the creation of internal refugees, as well as out-migration that drives people to risk humiliation, incarceration and death, whether by swimming across the Rio Grande by night, by navigating the oceans of the world in leaky and dangerous boats, by landing on the coasts of Greece or Spain, by stealing the identity of others to reach the promised lands of the West.

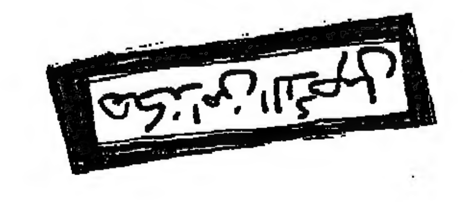
Here are the roots of many of the violent disturbances and upheavals that send a frieze of dispossessed humanity on the arduous march across the world. 'Economic migrants' is a self-serving and disingenuous category, a product of the inventiveness of those who wish to suppress connections between their own actions and the consequences of them.

The champions of human rights are contributing to the violation of them, wherever people are forced out of stable ways of living in order to make way for more intensive agriculture, industrialization, cash crops, tourist complexes, golf courses. The people resist, and their own governments compel compliance, just as those governments themselves are compelled to comply with the diktats of Western financial institutions. And then, those arriving on the shores of Europe or North America are negligible numbers compared with those who must be accommodated within the favelas, barrios, the slums and shanties of the South: within the last 20 years, Brazil has become three-quarters urban. Whole cities on the periphery of Sao Paulo and Rio have become refugee centers, a place of sojourn for those overtaken by the disaster of 'development'.

We, in Britain at least, should have some insight into such processes. The history of outmigration of people from this country is a long one — whether transported as criminals, indentured servants, or seekers of refuge in Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand from poverty and unemployment. It was not love of adventure that sent people from Lancashire, Scotland, Ireland to America; the sunderings and partings never healed: and this is attested by the contact maintained with kin for three-quarters of a century, the treasured letters and Christmas cards, the people who return each summer from North America, looking for their roots in churchyards and parish records, speak of unforgotten upheavals, involuntary departures: so many tears, so much separated, loved flesh and blood. What has interrupted the transmission of memory that we seem incapable of recognizing our kinship with those migrants whose presence fills the spaces evacuated so recently at the center of the towns and cities?

And even if our historical memory is defective, there is another way in which we might feel that migrations are part of our common experience. In one sense, we are all migrants. For we, in the West, have once again been ousted from familiar patterns of livelihood, sent to seek our settlement with new forms of labor that have deskilled and disemployed us, compelled to make our own accommodation as best we may with an economy in course of constant mutation. We have seen communities broken and robbed of their function, people dispersed, families scattered, neighborhoods ruined, kinspeople separated. Technological change has re-

(Contd on Pg.15)



Democracy and Gold

The African country, Mali, has both

A short camel ride from Timbuktu, Amidi Ag Sange — wrapped in vivid indigo robes that leave only his eyes uncovered — is explaining why he is hopeful. Sweeping his arm toward the vast Sahara, he says, "We were in exile. Now we are home." A bloody five-year civil war between Tuareg separatists and government forces sent Sange and more than 100,000 nomadic Tuaregs fleeing their ancestral desert lands in northern Mali. Last March, the government and rebels declared a truce, and Tuaregs again trade in Timbuktu's sunscorched market. "Our country," Sange says, "will have a good future."

He is not the only one who thinks so. Mali has become everybody's favorite African success story. In four years, President Alpha Oumar Konare has transformed the impoverished, landlocked country, two thirds of which is covered by desert, from a one-party dictatorship into a stable democracy. He has brought peace and a measure of autonomy to the north and has freed the economy from government control, encouraging an influx of Western and South African mining companies looking for gold. Officials at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank give Konare's government high marks for stemming inflation, reducing a bloated civil service and boosting growth. No wonder U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made Mali the initial stop on his recent — and first ever — African tour.

The last time Mali was a beacon for the world was 600 years ago. Timbuktu's university was a center of learning, and the Malian empire mined so much gold that, on a famed trip to Egypt, ruler Mansa Moussa caused the Cairo gold market to crash. But since the 15th century, Mali's fortunes have waned, dominated successively by Arabs, other Africans and the French. For most of the years since independence in 1960, it was a corrupt one-party state. A popular uprising and a subsequent military coup toppled the regime in 1991.



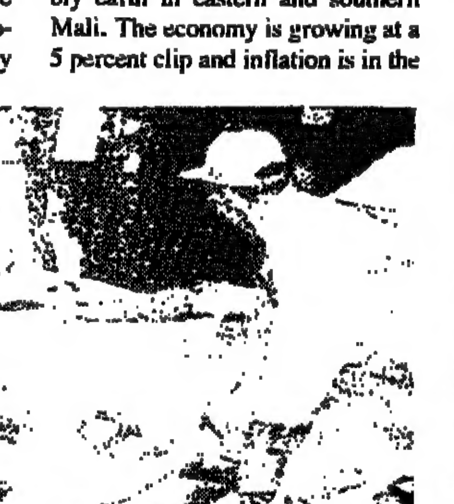
The coup leaders handed power to Konare's elected government in 1992. Even after the advent of democracy, the Tuareg rebellion raged in the north.

In the last year, Konare has changed all that. He created a new youth minister post. He forced Tuareg rebels, the army and anti-Tuareg militias to make peace. In the process, he has built new democratic institutions, from nationally broadcast town-hall meetings, where ministers take questions from ordinary citizens, to a thriving free press. Economic reforms have come just as fast. New investment laws make it easier for foreign companies to do business. Mining houses have rushed in; an estimated 300 tons of gold lie below the crumbly earth in eastern and southern Mali. The economy is growing at a 5 percent clip and inflation is in the single digits.

Mali has a longway to go before it's the next Singapore. Open sewers still flow through Bamako, and children and the handicapped still beg on its streets. Average per capita income is $200 per year, poor even for Africa. Life expectancy is only 46 years (the sub-Saharan average is 51), adult literacy is 27 percent (half the sub-Saharan average) and school enrollment is just 15 percent. The economy remains dominated by agriculture — particularly cotton — and the capricious rains of the Sahel.

But experts say the country is on the right track. It has never been freer politically or economically. The real test will come next year, when the government is required to call elections. Even though Konare has not announced yet, everyone expects him to run— and to win. Opposition parties complain he is a fake democrat who rammed an independent election committee that favors him through Parliament. But the evidence argues otherwise. Every day in the local press, more than two dozen opposition parties carry on a raucous debate over the country's future. It's noisy, sharp-edged and often disrespectful — in other words, just what you would expect in a burgeoning democracy.

(Courtesy Newsweek)



Crushed under an avalanche of bodies: More than 80 people died and about 150 were injured two weeks ago when fans at a badly overcrowded Guatemala City soccer stadium stampeded during a World Cup qualifying match between Guatemala and Costa Rica. Guatemala's President Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen declared three days of national mourning.

Int'l Force Should Stay in Bosnia for Two Years: Izetbegovic

SARAJEVO — An international peacekeeping force should stay in Bosnia for at least two more years, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic was quoted as saying here Thursday.



Bosnian radio said Izetbegovic asked for the force to stay in talks with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and the other two members of the joint Bosnian presidency, Kresimir Zubak and Momcilo Krajisnik.

It was necessary "to ensure the conditions for the return of refugees, assist in the arrest of persons sought for war crimes, oversee the proper progress of municipal elections and monitor disarmament," Izetbegovic was quoted as saying.

Solana said earlier that a decision on how to replace the 47,800-member NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) would be taken in the next few weeks.

"We are considering different options and we'll discuss these options in the council in Brussels in the coming days," Solana said when questioned by reporters.

He was speaking after the handover ceremony between the outgoing IFOR Commander Admiral Joseph Lopez and his replacement, four-star U.S. General William Crouch.

The mission of IFOR, tasked to implement the Dayton Bosnia Peace Accord, expires on December 20. (AFP)

Japan Pledges Support for Bolivia's Reforms

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pledged support Wednesday for Bolivia's democratic and economic reforms during a meeting with visiting Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Earlier in the day, Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and his Bolivian counterpart Antonio Aranibar Quiroga exchanged notes on Japan's provision of two grants-in-aid to Bolivia totalling 550 million yen ($5 million).

Of the total, 500 million yen will be used to buy fertilizers for a project to boost Bolivia's food production.

In the meeting with Hashimoto, Sanchez de Lozada said all the Central and South American countries, except for Cuba, were pursuing democracy and market-oriented economic reforms, Japanese officials said.

These countries are also grouping up economic links among themselves, the Bolivian president was quoted as saying.

He added that Bolivia, which presides over the Rio group of 12 Central and South American nations, might be the least affluent nation in South America but it was going ahead with "various domestic reforms."

Hashimoto, who toured five countries in the region in August, said Japan had a "strong interest" in strengthening ties with Central and South American nations and would cooperate with Bolivia's economic reforms.

The premier said that although Asia and the Pacific was a fast-growing region it had "constraints in food, energy, environment and other areas". (AFP)

Renegade Khmer Rouge Say They Are Uninterested in Politics

PAILIN, Cambodia — The last holdouts of a renegade faction of the Khmer Rouge who joined the government Wednesday will not become actively involved in politics and will not support any single existing political party, a senior commander said here.

"Our movement has no desire to found any political party for the coming elections in 1997 and 1998," said Ei Chhien, the faction's senior military officer, who along with more than 2,500 of his men were inducted into the army.

"We support all political parties which have the desire to achieve national reconciliation, national union and an end to the war," he said, adding that his men understood the concept of a neutral army.

"We sincerely believe ... that the army must take a neutral stand and have no bias toward any political parties or groups which are competing to seek power," he said. "Our main task is to raise the banner of national reconciliation."

Ei Chhien and Sok Pheap, another senior commander in the renegade faction led by former Khmer Rouge Deputy Premier Ieng Sary, were the last commanders to agree to integrate their troops into the army.

The renegades had reportedly demanded several top military and police posts in exchange for joining the government. (AFP)

Sentences Confirmed Against Nine Albanian Ex-Communists

TIRANA — Tirana's Court of Appeal has confirmed sentences of up to 20 years imprisonment passed against nine former Communist Party officials accused of "crimes against humanity," the Albanian press reported Wednesday.

The nine, including Llambi Gegprifti and Lenka Cuko, former party secretaries for the districts of Tirana and Lushnja, in the south, had been found guilty in September of "massive deportations of citizens, violations of the Albanian constitution and international conventions" during the regimes of Communist-era leader Enver Hoxha and his successor Ramiz Alia. (AFP)

Clinton to Make First Post-Election Trip to Asia

WASHINGTON — With President Bill Clinton set to tour Asia this month, U.S. officials hope his triumphant post-election visit will open a smoother era in U.S.-Asian relations than Clinton's first term in office.

The president weathered near-crises in China, North Korea, and Japan during his first four years in the White House, and experts say it will take skillful management and sustained high-level attention to keep further debacles at bay.

Major questions marks meanwhile remain over the likely impact of a post-election Cabinet reshuffle and broad regional trends such as China's emergence as a major power and North Korea's worsening economic straits.

"It does make a difference who (Clinton's) closest advisers are," said Helmut Sonnenfeldt, an Asia scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced his resignation on Thursday. Defense Secretary William Perry is expected to follow suit, and no replacement has been designated for either of the top Cabinet posts.

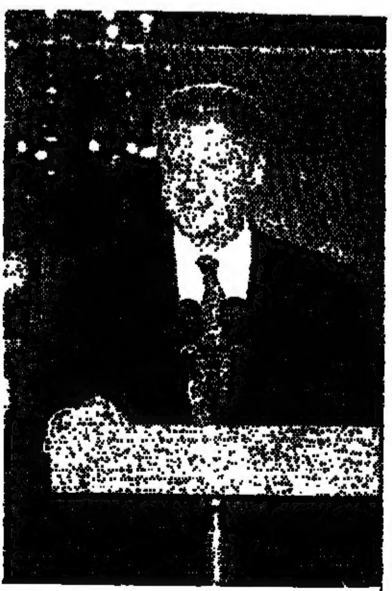
Emblematic of renewed U.S. interest in Asia, Clinton's first foreign trip after his November 5 re-election will take him to the Philippines for talks with Pacific rim leaders and to Australia and Thailand for state visits in late November.

Christopher is scheduled to visit Beijing and Shanghai from November 19-21 before traveling alongside Clinton to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Manila.

Both U.S. leaders are scheduled to hold extensive talks with their Asian counterparts, with U.S.-Chinese discussions expected to pave the way for an exchange of summit meetings next year.

And at every stop along the way, National Security Adviser Anthony Lake said in a speech here October 24, they will reiterate "a simple message, loud and clear: the United States will remain a Pacific power."

That's a bigger challenge than it used to be, though, thanks to China's rise to become a huge regional power and rising opposition in Japan to the nearly 50,000 U.S. troops stationed there.



Burned by the Philippines' eviction of U.S. forces under President George Bush, Washington has been hedging bets since the brutal rape of a Japanese schoolgirl last year by three Americans prompted a furious outcry.

It has notably reaffirmed a longstanding security alliance with Japan, expanded defense cooperation with Australia, arranged to sell a fleet of F-16s to Indonesia, and continued arms sales to China's arch-rival Taiwan.

But along with Clinton's 1995 decision to normalize relations with Vietnam, which went to war with China as recently as 1978, none of this has gone down well in Beijing, said Sonnenfeldt. "The Chinese, of course, interpret it all as directed against them."

Indeed, despite assurances that Washington wants to engage rather than contain China, the emerging giant's official media resumed criticizing the United States on Tuesday for "heavy-handed meddling and "cold war propaganda."

And apart from endorsing more high-level exchanges, U.S. officials seem at a loss for ways to reassure leaders of the world's most populous country — even as they seek Chinese help to avoid a catastrophe in North Korea.

Both Clinton and Republicans first elected to Congress in 1994 are credited with learning some subtleties of Asia policy on the job, notably the importance of maintaining the sensitive status quo among Washington, Beijing and Taipei. (AFP)

